

England's JESTS

Refin'd and Improv'd;

W I T H

The addition of *Eight* new
Novels never before Printed:

A N D

*An excellent Receipt to Cure
Mad Love.*

With several new and diverting
Letters, and Answers, extreamly
Comical and Entertaining.

The Third Edition.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *E. Harris*, at the
Harrow in Little Britain, 1702.

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TO THE
READER.

THE good acceptance which this little Book met with generally from the World, in its first Edition, hath obliged me to the Reprinting of it, having still the same Reasons for Publishing this Treatise now, as brought it into the Press at first, which are your Pleasure, and my Profit. I may tell you, and that without vanity, that these in this Edition, are a Collection of the best Jest's that ever spoke English, and I have been so nice in their Composure, e're I would suffer them to come abroad, that I assure, you as they are here, they are the work of one of the finest hands in the World,

The Preface.

a Wit so great, that every stroak is a Master piece, whose quick Judgment, and nice Palate, could admit of nothing but Delicates; so that you will find, all that was dull, or flat, or heavy in the last Edition, clearly blotted out of this, and things of great Diversion, and Wit, incerted, in their room; as also, at the latter end of the Book, instead of the Characters in the former Edition, there are added eight very pleasant Novels in this, such as I am sure, if a Man were very Melancholy, would upon reading of them, never fail to make him, what I always wish the Reader to be, very merry, and good humour'd.

Farewel.

Englands

England's Jest's Refin'd, &c.

I.

Near *Lyn*, in *Norfolk*, there liv'd in the Time of *Oliver*, and the *Rump Parliament*, one *John Thursby*, Esq; The Government had occasion to borrow money on the publick Faith, and a certain summ was to be raised in that part of *Norfolk*; for which purpose, he, amongst other mony'd men, whom they look'd upon as disaffected, was summon'd to the *Town-Hall* to compleat the Loan: Before he goes out in the morning, says he to his wife, pray God send (when I come before the Commissioners) that I speak wisely. Away he goes, and is not long there, before the Cryer of the Court Summons him by Name, *John Thursby* Esq; the Gentleman strove to get near, but cou'd not for the great Croud, and

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there-

therefore answers, *Here I am, but I can get no higher:* Way was made therefore for Esq; Thursby, and when he came to the Bar, the Commissioners told him, he was desir'd to lend the *Parliament* 250 pounds; To which he gravely replies, On my word Gentlemen, if I were but as willing as I am able I would do it with all my heart: The Court laught heartily, & told him, since he had satisfy'd them of his ability, They'd make him willing; and call'd a new cause.

2.

There was a young Lady that had been long tantalized with an old Husband, who at last having the good hap at once, to bury Husband, and come to a good Estate, lookt sharp out to satisfy her longing desires; now amongst her Gallants, there was one, who having been disabl'd in the *Low-Country* service, knowing there was no way to please a widdow, a young, lusty, amorous Widdow, without [that] Limb, quaintly contrives to make a shew however of a great deal of vigour thereabout, and to that purpose puts a great live Eel into a long bag which he

he fastens about his waist in such fashion that the head hangs down in his breeches between his leggs; Thus provided, away goes he to the Widow, touzes her, pulls her into his lap, where she's hugely tickled in her imagination at the brisk motions of the suppos'd representatives of her Gallants Family: for sit how she wou'd, as long as in his lap, she was sure to have a Bob at her B—ch: Her friends persuasions were all thrown away upon her; a fiddle for their rich or worshipful Husbands, this was the man for her money: Well, they are married, and to bed they go; but alas, here the Scene changes; the poor Gentleman had nothing to bob her there; his Vigour was in the bag, and pull'd off with his breeches; the first night he pretends to be drunk, the second night falls a sleep before he was a bed; she tyr'd and vex'd, was resolv'd to be disappointed no longer; in the morning, my dear, says she, amorously drawing near him, will you resolve me one Question? Faithfully, replies he; cover'd with blushes, what was that faith the Lady that used to be in your

A 4

breeches,

breeches, when I ased to sit in your lap? He begs her pardon, promises to be as endearing as he could, and tells her the story of his Eel; well says the Lady, half crying, *What can't be cur'd, must be endur'd*; but if ever it be my good luck to be a *Widdow* again, I'm resolv'd, for your sake, *I'll know whether the next be Fish or Flesh or no, beforehand.*

3.

An old Curmudgeon in the country had a couple of Sons, the Elder of his Father's humour, up early and late, always busie: The younger Brother, as being the better Gentleman, cou'd make a shift to lie a bed and sleep till noon: The Elder having been out early one morning, in his walk finds a purse of Gold, which he brings home to Vather; upstairs walks the good old Man, and upbraiding the other, see here (saith he) you lazy booby, Brother hath found a purse of Gold this morn; if you cou'd get up a mornings, perhaps some good might come of you too; Vather, saith the fellow, pray Vather don't be so woundy passions, for I'll tell you Vather — What, saith the Father?

Why

England's Jest.

why I'll tell you Vather— What Sirrah? I'll tell you Vather— What, what will you tell me, you——? Why Vaith and Troth, he that lost it had better have been in bed, as I am.

4.

A young Gentleman walking along *Paul's Churchyard*, was taken so short that he must of necessity do it in the Street or his Breeches; the Street is pitch'd upon as the cleaner course; he makes no more adoe, but turns his face to the wall, & his t'other end looks directly down *Ludgate*: As Fortune would have it, a modish young Citizen was handing along a squeamish young Lady, who surpriz'd to be so impudently star'd at backward, hides her face, and would by no means be perswaded to stir one step farther: An affront of this nature, makes the Lover draw near the monster and thus bespeak it; What reason, thou nasty devil, could tempt thee, if you must needs sh— in the open street, cou'd you not have turn'd your face; thank you for that I Faith, why that's the way to be seen; besides every body knows my face, and no body knows my A—se; at which comical

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Reply

6 England's Jest.

Reply, off walks he as much out of Countenance as his mistress; and upon the matter, both of them stay'd till the stop was over.

5.

A country fellow who held his farm by a conditional Lease, which he had broken; his Landlord, who had his eye upon a better tennant, wanted to turn him out, and comes one day and told him he must provide himself, for his Lease was forfeit: Do you hear *Joan*, says the fellow to his wife, Landlord saith we must be gon, the Lease is forfeit, but I'll go to Council and ask: Away he goes; the Council tells him 'twas true; Ay, and what must I do then, saith the fellow; Why your best way (reply'd the Council) will be to chuse two *Arbitrators* and an *Umpire*, they may bring it to a *Conclusion*; so home he goes: Well, what news, crys *Joan*? News, quoth he, I've a Trick for my Landlord I saith; Well, but what of the Lease? The Lease, the Lease is Surfeit, but I must choose two *Fornicators* and a *Trumpeter*; Well, and what then, cries *Joan*? What then, ye fool? Why then they'll bring the matter to *Confusion*.

6.

6.

A young extravagant Beau, having spent all his Estate, was reduced to live by his wits; and coming by a Bankers where they were telling money, he turns to his boy (as bad a rogue as himself) and orders him to go into the shop and catch up a handfull of money, but to lay it all down again, and come after him: The boy does as he is order'd, goes into the shop, takes up the money, lays it down again, and runs to his master, and the Bankers man after him; the Spark looks about, demands the reason why he pursu'd his boy; they told him he had stol'n some money; 'tis false, cries the boy; 'tis true, says the man, and back you shall go to my master; and coming to the shop, the Banker told the Spark, his boy had rob'd him, says the boy I han't; with that the Banker laid hands on him, the master goes to rescue him, till at length high words rose, and the Banker tells the Beau he's a shirking fellow, and he wou'd send him to *Newgate* for robbing him; for what his boy did was by his order: This enrages the Spark, that he swore he'd have satisfaction; but

but first demands what summ they charge the boy with ; answer was made they cou'd not easily tell, but from such a heap, which was 50 pounds, he had taken a handfull ; Well, says the Spark, pray tell it over ; accordingly 'twas done, and the money found right to a penny ; which the Banker seeing, asked pardon for the affront ; but the Spark told him that shou'd not serve the abuse he had giv'n a Person of his Quality, and immediately goes and has the Banker arrested in an Action of Defamation and Scandal ; the Sergeant that did it, was well feed by the Spark, which made the fellow conclude him some Nobleman, therefore he tells the Banker, his best way was to compound the matter, for he had affronted a Person of Quality that wou'd make him soundly pay for it, if he proceeded any farther : The Banker fearful of the matter, and a Lover of his Peace, concluded the Seargeant in the right, therefore offers 10 pounds to agree it ; but that the Spark wou'd not hear of ; nevertheless, with much perswasions, he was brought to take 20 pounds, and
end

end the difference: However this did not content our Spark, but he must have more of the Banker's money; and accordingly he and his boy watch'd their opportunity when they were telling gold, and giving some sign to his boy, into the shop the rogue goes, snatches up a handful, brought it away; at which some strangers that were in the shop call'd to the apprentice to stop the boy; No (cries the apprentice) I don't intend it, for I know him too well to do so; for my master hath paid sawce already for stopping him; in the mean time the boy had time to secure himself, and see what his impudence had given him, which was near forty Guineas.

7.

An old man with a great beard, standing near a Carr-horse, the poor horse taking his beard for a bottle of hay, snapt at it; which made the old man give such a leap back, that he stumbl'd into the kennel; but when he got up, he fell to cudgelling the horse, and in a great rage cry'd out, You plaguey toad, who made you a barber, that you must attempt to shave me, with a pox to you?

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An ingenious Cavalier hearing that an old friend of his was made a Cardinal, went to congratulate him in his new Honour; pray Sir (saysthe Cardinal, looking very strangely upon him) give me the favour of your name and business; I am come (sayes the Cavalier) to condole with your Eminence, and tell you how heartily I pity men that are overcharg'd with preferment, because it burthens folks brains to that degree, that they can neither see, hear, nor understand other men, and makes them as absolutely forget them, as if they had never seen them before in their lives.

A harmless country Lass coming to London (along with the carrier) for a service, he amongst other discourse ask'd her, What her Name was; she told him, *Joan Jenkins*; O cries the carrier, *Joan's* a name that will not be lik'd in London; No says the maid, why what name shall I have? Why *Priscilla*, answer'd the carrier; on which they concluded; and to a very good service went the Maid, that us'd

to command the children and servants to be chatechiz'd at Church; and coming to the Maids turn to be examin'd, the Minister ask'd her name; *Priscilla*, answer'd she: *Who gave you that name*, says the Minister? *Why, Dobson the Carrier*, cries she: O he, saies the Minister, you must say my Godfathers and Godmothers: *Ah pox* (cries the Maid) *you lack to sell me a bargain, do you?* And in a great pett went out of the Church.

10.

Some Gentlemen travelling in the West of *England*, spy'd a Brook in a field, where a lusty country Girl (with her coats trus'd up half way her thighs) was bucking her cloaths; says one of the Gentlemen, Let's ride up and banter that wench; With all our hearts, cry'd the other, tho' I'll lay a bottle of Wine she answers you; Done, says the other; so coming up to the Maid, Sweet-heart sayes he, what makes your thighs so red? Oh Sir (reply'd she) I carry fire in my Breech, and want your nose, for a bucket, to take up water to quench it: This quick reply hindred his second attack, and yielding

ing his Wager lost, they ride on their way.

11.

A Gentleman that had been a great Traveller, would often in his Discourse, suffer his tongue to run on very romantick Stories; which a Friend of his, having several times observed, advised him by way of Caution, that he would not expose himself, as he did in all Company: Whereupon, the other confessed 'twas a great fault, but he had so used himself to Lying, that he knew not when he did it; tho' for the future, desired his Friend to tread on his Toe, the next time he was about to romance. This concluded, on they go their ways to a Tavern, where meeting with Company, the Gentleman was intreated to entertain them with a relation of what he had seen in his Travels: The Gentleman gives the Company an account of strange things; as of very fine Flanders Lace, made of the shavings of deal boards, &c. but what was most surprizing, was, of a Church in the *Straights*, that was two Miles long. Pray Sir, says one of the Company, how

how broad might it be? (at that instant, his Friend treading on his toe) Why, says he, two foot broad; at which they all laugh'd very heartily, telling him, this indeed, was worth his remarks; which made him so mad to be catch'd, that in a great rage, he turns to his Friend, saying, *a pox on you, this is along of you, for had you let me alone, I had made it as broad as 'twas long.*

12.

Two young Students were in a deep Dispute about the Man in the Moon, whether he was Gentleman, or a Citizen; and after several pro's and con's, one of them wittily solves the matter, by telling the other, when she appear'd with two Horns, then he might swear a Citizen was there.

13.

A young Bravado having been in in the West, was asked at his return by a Gentleman (that knew him a Coward) what great exploits he had performed. Why, I have kill'd two Men for my own share, cries our Soldier: Indeed you fought valiantly, says the Gentleman, but sure you did not

not kill so many; yes indeed, says he, I kill'd five; why, that's abundance; answers the Gentleman, sure you mistake; no upon my Honour Sir, says he, I did slay one; that may be, replies the the Gentleman; but pray how did you kill him? I cut his Legs off, cries Captain *Brag*; indeed, says the Gentleman, you had better have cut his Head off; Oh, says he, that was off before.

14.

In *O'iver's* time, Justices of Peace having the power to Marry People, there comes a young Couple for a cast of his Office; but in less than three Weeks after, the young Woman comes crying to the Justice, for the wrong he had done her, in marrying of her; why, says the Justice, what's the matter? Matter, cries she, truly if I had thought there had been no more in Matrimony than I find there is, I'd never have married: More than you find, says the Justice, why, what is it that's wanting? Nay, I don't know, answered she; but I know no more difference, in no respect, than I did before: Oh, replies the Justice,

I perceive your Husband does not do his Duty, therefore, pray bring him before me. Away goes the Woman, and fetches her Husband, whom the Justice ſoundly reprimands for not performing his Duty: the poor Fellow, very harmleſſly tells his Worſhip, indeed he did not know what he meant by Duty; but if the Juſtice pleaſe to ſhew him, he would do his endeavour to learn. With that, Mr. Juſtice takes the Woman into the next Room, lays her on the Couch, and then calls in her Husband, bidding him mind what he did, that another time he might do the like, and then to work goes the Juſtice on the Woman, who often call'd to her Husband, ſaying, Pray John mind what his Worſhip does. After the Juſtice had finiſh'd his buſineſs, he demanded of the Husband, if he thought he could do the ſame; to which the Woman making answer, I pray your Worſhip, ſhew him once more, that he may be perfect; not at this time, ſays the Juſtice, but to morrow, if you come, I queſtion not but to make him a perfect Workman: So returning his Worſhip a great many thanks,
home

home they went, in order to practice their Duty.

15.

Apelles the famous Painter, had drawn the Picture of *Alexander* the Great on Horseback, and presenting it to him, *Alexander* gave it not the praise, so fine a piece deserved, which made *Apelles*, desire a living Horse might be brought; who seeing the Picture, fell to pawing and neighing, taking it for a Rival; at which, *Apelles* ingeniously tells the Emperor, that his Horse understood Painting better than he.

16.

A young Rake of the Town, was had before the Lord Mayor on some Misdemeanor, and after examination, was asked by my Lord, if he could say the Lord's Prayer; *yes very well*, answers the Spark; *pray lets hear you*, says my Lord; with that, he begins a Popish Prayer, *Hail Mary full of Grace*: at which his Lordship very angerly, bids him away with his *Hail Marys*, and repeat the *Belief*: the youngster begins, and goes on while he came to *Born of the Virgin Mary*; and there making

making a full stop, cries out hastily,
Here she is again my Lord, what shall
I do with her now? This set the whole
 Court a laughing, and for the Humour's
 sake he was dismiss'd.

17.

A Country Farmer bringing Rent to
 a Bishop, and never being in his pre-
 sence before, saluted him, with a *May*
it please your Worship; at which, one
 of the Servants whispering in his ear,
 bid him say Grace instead of Worship:
 What, cries the Farmer, must I say
 Grace when there is no Meat; but if
 'tis this Country Fashion, 'tis an odd
 one; and putting his Hat before his
 Eyes, says this Grace:

The God of Love
Sent from above
Old Swords and rusty Sickles,
To cut the Guts,
And Throats of such
That will not eat their Vittuals.

The Bishop wondering at the Fellow,
 demanded the meaning; and under-
 standing 'twas done thro' misapprehen-
 tion, laughed heartily at the Jest, and dis-

dismiss'd his gracious Tennant.

18.

An arch young Knave, meeting an old Man, whose Age and Infirmary had brought his body to the shape of a Bow. Pray Father, says the Boy, will you sell that Bow; Save your Money you fool you, says the Man, for when you come to my years, you shall have such a Bow for nothing.

19.

A Gentleman that was under some trouble, had a Quaker of his intimate acquaintance came to condole with him in his Misfortunes; and boasting greatly of his own Integrity, advised the Gentleman to confess a Judgment to him of all he had; the Gentleman knowing the Quaker better than to trust him in so great an Affair, made answer, He would not confess a Judgment to him, but he would pray heartily to Heaven, to send a Judgment upon him, and that a severe one, for designing to wrong so many poor Children as he was Father of.

20.

A formal piece of Gravity, about the Age of threescore and ten, without

out ever so much as knowing a Woman from a Weathercock. The Devil ow'd him a shame, and at last paid him liberally, in making the old doting Fop, marry a young Girl; for he would often complain afterwards, how unluckily he had disposed of his time: When I was a young Man, says he, *I wanted a Wife, and now I am an old Man, my Wife wants a Husband.*

21.

A Doctor of Divinity that had a good Estate, and no Child; and desirous to make himself memorable to Posterity, by a publick piece of Charity, orders a Causeway to be made to a Market-town, for the free passage of Travellers: And as the Laboures were at work, the Doctor was over-seeing them, when a Noble Man came by, who had no great respect for men of his Coat, jeeringly tells the Doctor, for all the cost he had been at, I don't think this *the way to Heaven*: Indeed I am of your mind, quoth the Doctor, *for then I cou'd not expect to have met your Lordship here.*

22.

Two great Cheats seeing a Gentleman

man with a very rich Coat on, going into a Tavern, says one to the other, I'll lay what you will, I get that Coat from the Gentleman, ere he comes out of that House; That sure, is impossible, cries the other, and wagers ten Pounds: Away goes the sharper, and at the Tavern, pretends to be the Gentleman's Man, desiring one of the Drawers to lend him an Apron, because he always fill'd his Master's Wine: Thus equip'd, he enters the Gentleman's Room, with a *D'ye call Gentlemen*, as one of the Drawers; which happening as they rung the Bell, he was bid bring up a flask of Red, which he nimbly performs, entering with clean Glasses; and in filling out the Wine, he watches an opportunity of coming behind the Gentleman, and with a sharp Razor for the purpose, flits a great hole in his Coat: the Glass had gon round, and out goes the Fellow, and stands at the Door waiting, against the Company call'd, which quickly was done thro' the Gentleman's rising from his Seat, and turning, discover'd to his Companions the hole in his Coat; at which there

was

was great wonderment how it should come, and the supposed Drawer sent down to the Master of the House, to borrow a Night Gown to slip on while his Coat was fine-draw'd up: The Fellow bringing the Gown, is ordered by the Gentleman, to carry his Coat to mending; which he takes, and fails not to tell him, what an extraordinary Workman lived just by, and thither he would carry it, and stay while 'twas done: But after some hours waiting, the Gentleman grew impatient, and call'd to know the meaning of the fellow's long stay: Answer was made him, that his Man was not yet return'd; the Gentleman could not imagine what they meant by his Man, telling them, he had none with him at that time: Yes Sir, says the Drawer, you had, and he it was that waited on you all this Evening: Zoons, cries the Gentleman in a rage, I tell you, I brought no Man out with me to Day: And upon further search in the matter, plainly discovers the Cheat.

23.

A Country Fellow thatching a Barn,
had an arch young rogue of a Boy, to
N. B. 40. carry

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carry him straw; and a great Hog coming by, turns up his head, as if he were listning; says the Father to the Boy, Can you tell what that Hog is thinking of? I warrant, you (cries the Boy) he's a hatching of Mischief. And while the Man was busie on the Ladder at his work, the young rogue hunts the Hog just under it, but happening to jostle against the Ladder, down comes that, and the Man and all; A pox on you, cries the Fellow to the Hog, 'tis true as the Boy said, for you were a hatching of Mischief indeed, for I think he has broke all my bones; and if ever I thatch for any body again, i'll make my bargain, they shall tie up their Hogs.

24.

One desiring a pretty Lads to go to a Gentleman, and kifs him; No indeed, Sir, says she, I'll never go to the Market for the Ware that I can have brought to my Door.

25.

A rich Man had a blockheaded Fellow to his Servant, who, the Master at every turn would be saying, Thou art the Prince of Fools. I wish

was

was, saith the Man saucily, for I should be the greatest Emperor on Earth, then you should be one of my Subjects.

26.

A comical fellow, who had got a great many Horns in a Basket, cry'd New Furniture, rare Furniture; whereupon a grave Citizen, wondering what it shou'd be, calls the Man, and seeing what it was, says, Why you coxcomly fool, do you think any body is so mad to buy such stuff? Yes indeed do I, cries the fellow, for tho' you are provided, there's many as wise as your self, that may have occasion for them.

27.

A pritty Country Lass riding to Market, was overtaken by a Gentleman, who pleased with her innocent looks, would needs bear her company to the next Town, where they must drink together, and after a Glass or two of Sack, the Gentleman understanding by her Discourse, she was to be married in few Days, asked her very gravely, if she knew what it was to be married? She told him no: Indeed, says he, your Mother and Relations are much to blame, not to instruct

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you

you in so weighty a concern, that else may prove very prejudicial to you; therefore in pity to your youth, I'll be your Tutor; and accordingly he was, to the best of his skill: Soon after, they parted, tho' not before the Maid had given him a great many thanks for his information; and returning home, soon tells her Mother, what a civil Gentleman she had met with, that had instructed her in her Duty against she was married. The old Woman soon understood how things had gone, and in a great passion, calls her a thousand Whores, and such like pretty Names, & threatening to turn her out of doors: in comes her Sweet-heart, and by all means, must know the fountain of their Discontent; which the Mother cunningly turns, telling him in a great pet, That she having reserved a tub of woundy good Ale, against the Wedding Night, and her Daughter, like a silly jade, had gone and tap'd it before: Poo poo, is that all, says Sousecrown, flap it up, flap it up, I'll warrant 'tis never the worse.

28.

A French Beau coming to a fine Inn

in *London*, and calls for a Pennyworth of Bread, a pennyworth of Cheese, and a pennyworth of Beer, then goes to bed; and in the Morning, calling for about the same quantity, for his breakfast, demands what was to pay: The Man of the House, finding him such a liberal Guest, makes a reasonable Bill of ten Shillings, and carrying it in to *Monsieur*, who having perused it, told him, 'Twas great deal Money, but if you must have ten Shilling, ten Shilling, you shall have; tho' the House be much troubled with Rats, that I no sleep to Night. That the Inn-keeper told him was true, and would give any thing to get rid of them; which the Frenchman, for a Bottle of Wine, undertook to cure; and after drinking the Wine, Now, says the Beau, call all de Rats into dis room, and make dem every one a Bill of ten Shilling, and dey never trouble your House again while they live.

29.

A Superannuated Chamber-maid perceiving the Midwives were so well paid at Christnings, resolves to study that Art; and having learnt some know-

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ledge

ledge from Books, declar'd her self a Proficient: Her Mistress being a pleasant Woman, smiles at the fancy, and likes the Humour, seems to much approve of her undertaking, making no doubt of her skill, which she should first practice on a young Cousin of hers, that was coming to Lye in at her house in few days: The Maid gives her Mistress a great many thanks, and provides her self with Necessaries; in the mean time the Mistress, with some more of her intimate acquaintance, procures a young smooth'd face youth drest in Woman's Cloaths, with a made great belly, who passes for the expected Cousin; and pretending her Labour was coming on, the new Midwife was call'd, who immediately sees how 'tis with her, and catching hold of the Laybel of Mortality, tugs titely at it, crying out, All hands to help, for I'll assure you, this is Labour, and there's one Leg in the World already; at which they all burst into a great laughter, that their sides ak'd; that discover'd to Mrs. Miwife, her mistake, who left not only the Chamber, but her place for shame, and forswore the Practice for ever after.

30.

Two young Scholars travelling from *Roan* to *Paris*, overtook a Country fellow riding on an Afs, which bray'd, as if for joy, he was in such learn'd company: The Students thinking to put a trick on the fellow, asked him, why he let his Brother crie so, and not find in his heart to quiet him? The fellow being none of the dullest, answer'd, That his Afs was only pleas'd to meet with his Relations, therefore could do no less than sing a Song of joy and mirth in his tone, of their welcome to him.

31.

Some People were roasting of Cockles, and they hissing in the fire, Well, says a blockheaded boy, these are villinous creatures sure, to sing when their houses are a fire over their heads.

32.

Two Travellers upon the way together, one of 'em stops, and takes up something, Look here (says he) I have found a bag of Money: No, cries t'other, when two friends are together, you must not say, I have found it, but we have found it: The word

B 4

was

was no sooner out, but comes a Hue and Crie after a gang of Thieves that had taken a Purse upon the Road: Lord Brother, says he that had the Bag, we shall be utterly undone; Oh fie, answers t'other, you must not say, we shall be undone, but I shall be undone, for if I'm to have no part in the finding. I'll never go halves in the hanging.

33.

A Fellow try'd for his Life after the Restoration of King *Charles*, and being cast, they told him he must be hang'd, he pleaded long in his own defence, but to no purpose, therefore he desired the Judge, since he must be hang'd, it might be after the new way that *Oliver* was, three or four years after he was dead.

34.

A Justice of Peace overtaking a Parson upon the Road between *London* and *Bow*, told his Company, he would put a trick on the Parson; and coming up to him, Told him, he did not follow his great Master's Rules, who was humbly contented with an Ass, whilst he rode on a fine Horse: The Parson reply'd, The reason of that was, because the King had

had made so many Asses Justices, that a Clergy-man could not get one to ride on, for love or money.

35.

Two Scotch Men of War, cruising on the Coast of *France*, was spy'd by a French Privateer, who soon bore up to 'em, and in little space, lays one of them on board, which occasion'd the Man of War to make his best defence, but it proving fruitless, he hayling the other Ship, crying *Sawny, Sawny, I* have taken a French Man ; Bring him away Mon, bring him away Mon, bring him away, replies the other ; He wo no come, says he, Then come away thy self mon : Answers t'other, H—Rogue H— says he, but he wo no let me come.

36.

A young Woman, who by the persuasions of her Friends, was married to an old Man that she could not love, gave herself up to all manner of Company, which her Husband saw but too plain, and so much troubled him, that he took to his Sick-bed, and believing he should die, like a good Christian, would die in Charity with all the World, except his Wife, who he was

B 5

resol-

solved to blot out of his Will; she perceiving this, and unwilling to be so great a loser, resolves to reclaim his good opinion of her, and by her double diligence, re-instates herself in his Will: The change in her behaviour, was well observed by the Alderman, who finding himself near expiring, sends for a Scrivener, and leaves this his loving Wife, sole Executrix, on condition she would promise him one thing; and that was, after his death, by no means to marry such a one, who of all her Companions, he hated: to which she reply'd, Indeed Husband, you may rest satisfied, *I will obey you, I am so far from marrying him, that I am promised to another, and the Contract already drawn between us, that there's nothing wanting to consummate the match, but your Death.* The poor old Man that was above half dead before, was in such a rage at her answer, that out of his Will, she should be put that very moment: but lo, Death was too nimble for his purpose, and immediately caus'd him to take a great leap in the dark, whereby his intentions were prevented, and his tender loving

loving Wife, left to execute her second Marriage.

37.

There being a great deal of Company at dinner with a Gentleman, where silver Spoons was laid to every Plate; One of the company, makes bold to steal one into his Pocket; an opposite Gentleman, observing him, sticks another in his button hole, which the Master of the House seeing, pleasantly asketh the reason; Why says he, *I* thought every Man was to have one, because *I* see that Gentleman put one in his Pocket.

38.

A young Lady that was compell'd by her Parents, to wed an old rich Man of a large Estate; notwithstanding her being contracted to another, who she had promised to meet privately, and very often did; but at last, the Husband mistrusting his Wives conduct, by the Spies he had set, entrapp'd them together, who were so far from being surpriz'd, that they boldly justify the action, telling him, They were Man and Wife before Heaven: This vexes the old Man to the heart,

heart, but he not daring to demand satisfaction by the Sword, resolves to have it by Law, and accordingly he arrests the Spark for a 1000 Pound damage, but upon the Tryal, the Lover had procured himself Friends in the Jury; who upon return of the Verdict, brought in only a Mark damage for the Plaintiff; at which, he falls into a great rage, Well (says the Gentleman) this is strange indeed, that I having proved my self a Cuckold upon Record, you should give me but a Mark, and flinging out of the Court, cries, *I pray God, all your Wives may mark you as shamefully, as mine has me, and may all your Horns be as long as the May Pole in the Strand.*

39.

An arch fellow, speaking of the dreadful Fire of *London*, said, *Canon-street* roared, *Wood street* was burnt to ashes, *Bread-street* was burnt to a coal, *Milk-street* was burnt too, *Eye-corner* was over bak'd, and *Snow-hill* was melted down.

40.

A Fellow that had indicted a Butcher at the *Old-Baily*, for stealing his Hog, whose

whose Head was found in the Butcher's Powdering-tub, which evidenc'd the Fact: Says the Court, Did you shew this to any body as soon as you found it? Yes, answers the fellow, who thro' too eagerly speaking, mistakes, saying, *I* carried the Justice's Head before the Hog. and there the Person confess'd the fact.

41.

An old Gentleman was chid by his Neighbour, for marrying a young Girl; who reply'd, *She'll be a Woman to morrow, for Wives are young Mens Mistresses, middle ag'd Mens Companions, and old Mens Nurses, and can you blame a Man for getting a good Nurse in his old Age?* No, says his Neighbour, *I* do not blame you for that, but for your not providing for Heaven, which your Wife now must do, for you know whither all Cuckolds go: Oh, says the old Man, now you put me in mind cn't, 'tis true indeed, for *I* heard your Wife say, some Years ago, that she was sure her Husband would go to Heaven, and now *I* find which way.

42. A.

42.

A Highway-man that was to be hang'd in a Country Town, orders was sent to a Carpenter to make the Gallows; which he neglecting to do, the Execution was defer'd; for which, the Judge very angerly sends for the Carpenter, demanding the reason why he had not done it; why, Sir, says the Fellow, *I have made two or three already, but never was pay'd for 'em, tho' if I had known this had been for your Worship, I would have left all business to have done it.*

43.

The Countess of *New-Castle* was a very whimsical Lady, and she asking Bishop *Wilkins*, how she should get up into the World of the Moon, that he had discover'd, because (says she) 'tis certainly a great Journey, and unless one can rest by the way, 'tis impossible to get thither: O Madam, says the Bishop, your Ladyship has built so many Castles in the Air, that you may easily rest in one of them.

44.

A Fool coming to a Gentlemans House, and seeing the Picture of a Fool in

in the Tapstery-hangings, he very fairly takes his Knife, and cuts it out, and runs to the Master of the House, cries, You must give me a Bottle of Sack, for saving your Hangings : Why *Jack*, says the Gentleman, how have you saved them ? Were they on fire ? No, answers the Fool, but by cutting out this Picture, (shewing it to him) ; for if my Master had seen it, he would certainly beg them, as he did me, and my Estate.

45.

One perswaded a Man to hang his Dog, that had done him some mischief ; I am loath to hang him (says the Man) but I'll go amongst the Neighbours, and give him an ill Name, and that's as bad.

46.

A poor young Woman that had brought herself almost to Death's Door, with grief for her sick Husband ; but the good Man her Father, did all he could to comfort her ; Come Child, says he, we are all mortal, pluck up a good heart my Girl, for let the worst come to the worst, I have a better Husband in store, when this is gone.
Alas

Alas Sir, ſays ſhe, what do ye tell me of another Husband? you had as good have ſtruck a Dagger to my heart; no no, if ever I think of another Husband, may— Without any more ado, the Man dies, and the Woman in tranſport of grief, tears her hair, and beats her breaſt, that every body thought, ſhe would run ſtark mad upon it; but on ſecond thoughts, ſhe wipes her Eyes liſts them up, and cries, Heaven's Will be done, and turns to her Father, Pray Sir (ſays ſhe) about to'ther Husband you ſpoke of, is he now in the Houſe?

47.

The Biſhop of *Mentz*, had a Fellow deep in Arrears for Rent, and ſending his Steward to him, let him know that unleſs he took more care to pay it, his Lord would take a courſe with him. Will he ſo, ſays the Fellow, then I'll take care to keep out of his Clutches. It muſt be out of his Dominions then, answers the Steward. No but it ſhan't, quoth the Fellow, for I have places enough in the Dioceſs to hide my ſelf, where he can't find me. Pray where can that be, ſays the Steward? Why,
in

in every Church, answers he: Nay, replies the Steward, he will certainly find you, for he goes thither once a week at least: But then I'll hide my self in the Pulpit, says the fellow, and there I am sure he won't come in hast.

48.

Two Parsons that had no kindness for each other, were invited to dinner together, and one of them being slovingly, the other spruce; the latter happened to be the first comer, therefore makes it his business, when he see the other coming, to run to the Door, and thinking to make a jest of the others Habit, cries out, indeed I thought to have met a worthy Doctor, but I doub, in his stead, I accost a Butcher. The Gentleman smiling, replies, Indeed Sir, I can't blame your surprize, it being very natural for Horned Beast to dread the sight of the Butcher.

49

A fair Lady marry'd to a Man in years, by the compulsion of her relations, (tho' she was before engaged to a brisk Spark) and being invited to a Christning, where, amongst other merry discourses, she proposes the telling a plea-

pleasant Adventure, of a Lady of her intimate acquaintance; which the company readily lent their ears to with great Attention. There was a Gentlewoman (says she) that was oblig'd to marry against her Will, tho' privately contracted to a Gentleman she dearly lov'd; but she not being able to withstand the suit of her relations, were forc'd (contrary to their inclinations) to condescend to the other match, tho' not before the Lover had prevailed on his Mistress to let him have her Maidenhead on the *Wedding Day*; this agreed on, and the Lady marry'd, 'twas all her care how to get from her Company to meet her Lover, who lay in a close arbour in the Garden, expecting when his bright Venus wou'd appear: She after dinner making a pretence of being very sleepy, desires the guest would not take it amiss if she lay down for an hour, since her Bridegroom wou'd take care nothing shou'd be wanting; and making her Honors, trips to her chamber that looked into the garden, and fastning the door, the next thing is, how she shall get out, since the window was some height from the ground; and trying several ways to no purpose, at last she comes to her *scarf*, which she ties to the window;

but

but she had no sooner taken hold (says the Lady) to let her self out, but the scarf broke, and down came I— At which the company fell into a great Laughter, which so dash'd the Lady, she knew not where to look; but told 'em indeed she meant the Gentlewoman; but that wou'd not pass after the discovery she had so undesignedly made: And ever after she was call'd by no other name, than, *The Scarf broke, and down came I.*

50.

A Gentleman in the Country, whose name was *Hide*, that had 3 sons, and no great Estate, told his youngest son he must put him out apprentice, & bid him choose his trade; the boy being of an ingenious temper, told his father he'd be a Tanner; Pish, says he, that's a nasty trade; That's true, answers the boy, but 'tis the most convenient trade for me of any, since you have but little to give me, for three *Hides* will set me up; What hides are those, ask'd the Father? Why Sir, replies he, yours and my two brothers.

51.

A certain Spark speaking very unseemly before a young Lady, she ask'd him.

him what Profession he was of; Madam, saies he, I am a civil Lawyer; Alas Sir! answer'd she, then if civil Lawyers are such rude People, I wonder what other Lawyers are.

52

A drolling fellow resolving to put a trick upon a close-fisted Bishop, goes to him on the first of *January*, and wishes him a merry new Year, and beg'd a piece of Gold for a new years gift; Why the man's mad, says the Bishop, and takes me to be so too; do you think that I have so little wit to part with a gob of money for a Good-morrow; Nay my Lord, says the fellow, if that be too much let it be a single groat, and I'll be thankfull; but that wou'd not do neither; then he fell to a copper farthing, and was deny'd that too; Why pray my Lord, cries the fellow let me beg your blessing then; with all my heart say'd the Bishop, down on your knees and you shall have it; No my Lord (saies the other) 'tis my turn now to deny, for if you had thought your Blessing worth a farthing you would never have parted with it.

53.

Cardinal W — lying dangerously ill with an impostume in his throat, and given over by the Doctor; his friends & relations thinking each breath would be his last, were for securing all they cou'd lay their hands on; & every body, shifting for themselves, carry'd off a prize; which a Baboon (that the Cardinal for diversion kept in his chamber) observing, in imitation of the rest, & to make one amongst them, snatches up the Cardinal's capputs it on his head, and away he march'd; the Cardinal seeing this, burst out a laughing, which broke the impostume in his throat, and sav'd his Life.

54.

A Gentleman's Son in the country, had (on promise of marriage) gotten a Farmer's daughter with child, who he afterwards leaves, and makes his addresses to a fine young Lady of a large estate, and in a short time successfully gain'd her consent, and the wedding day is appointed; which reaching the ear of the farmers daughter's, (who by this time had lain in of a brave boy) she spruces up her self and child, goes
to

to the church, and their attends the Bridegrooms coming ; which no sooner appears, but she makes toward him, playing and talking to the child in her arms ; he observing this, and fearful of her exclamations against him, steps to her and whispers something in her ear ; which the Bride perceiving, wou'd needs know what 'twas he said to the woman, otherwise she would not stir on step farther ; why then saies he, if you'll not be angry, I'll tell you ; well I will not replies she, let it be what it will ; so taking her aside, he makes her senceible that was his child in the womans arms, who only desired that he would contribute something towards the bringing of it up : And is that all, quoth Mrs. Bride ? Then you must do by that, as I did by one I had by my father's groom, put it out to nurse, and there's no more trouble with it : The dispute ending, iinto Church they go ; but the Spark considering what Mrs. Bride had said, desir'd he might ask the Parson one question before he took the Covenant ; and that was, to know which was best, a whore of his own making, or a whore of another

nother Body's? Why says the Parson, if there's one in the case, doubtless a whore of your own making's best: At that he goes immediately and fetches the farmer's daughter, bidding the Minister perform his office; saying, since 'tis so, my Bride that was to be, may (if she pleases) be one of my Bride-maids; for there is no Jest like the true Jest.

55.

A woman almost out of her wits for her good-man that lay very sick, and was given over, and nothing will serve her turn, but death must needstake her stead of him, therefore she prays, and calls, and makes a mighty entreaty; till at last death presents himself at her elbow, which she seeing, drops him a fine countess, saying, pray Sir, do not mistake your self, for the Person that you came for, lies in the bed there.

56

Two boys in *Salisbury* searching for Jackdaws nests in the Cathedral, and about half way up the spire, in the open places made to let in the light, they saw one, but cou'd come at it no other way than by one's leaning out, whilst
he

he within held him by his heels; this piece of danger did one of them undertake, and reaching down, feels into the nest where the birds were, cry'd out faith *Jack* here's three; Then I'll have two says *Jack*; no but you shan't tho' replies t'other; Then I'll let you fall, saies *Jack*, and fairly did as he said; but as good Fortune wou'd have it, there was a great quantity of Burdocks growing in the Place, which broke his fall from the ground, and he in the tumbling turn'd flat on his back; and after the fright was a little over, he stares up, and sees *Jack* peeping down after him, cries out, Ah now, you young Dog, you shall have ne'r a one; and getting up, goes his way unhurt.

57

A Farmer having bestow'd good Learning on his son, who was come home to visit his parents; and being one night at supper on a couple of fowls, to shew his skill, must needs be chopping Logick; Now (saies he to his father) I'll shew you what Learning can do; you see these two fowls here? Ay, says the parents; Then I'll shew ye how to make three of them; That's
brave

brave indeed (says the old Woman) but how will you make it appear; Oh, replies our Scholar, by Logick; as thus, here's one, is there not? Yes (says she) then taking up the other, Here's two (says he) now two and one makes three: Well (says the Father) I think you have pretty well made it out; for which, your Mother and I will have these two, and you shall have the third for Logick, and so was sent supperless to Bed.

58.

A Gentleman that usually travelled in a plain Country Habit, to prevent his being suspected of having much Money with him, was obliged on Business, to come to *London*; & accompany'd by his Man, he arrives safe at his Inn; the next Day, he proceeds in his Business, which happened to require more Money than he had in Town; and he being unwilling to trouble any of his Acquaintance, resolves to make a virtue of necessity, and part with a Diamond Ring he wore, worth 50 Pound; therefore ordering his Man to follow him, he goes into *Lombard-street*, to a Goldsmith's Shop, pulls

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off

of his Ring, and asks the Goldsmith what it was worth; the Goldsmith, looking on the Gentleman, then on the Ring, and by his plain Country Habit, believes he had no great skill in Diamonds, concludes he should make the Ring his own for a small matter; therefore he tells the Gentleman, if it was Right, and no Counterfeit, he thought it might be worth about 10 Pounds: As to its being right (says the Gentleman, I dare warrant it, and that it will yield more Money; Not much more, cries the Goldsmith, for here's a Ring which I'll ingage, is much better than yours, and a good Diamond, that I will sell you for 20 Pounds. This he said, not thinking the Country-man had Skill, Inclination, or Money to buy; tho' the Gentleman plainly perceived, this was a decoy to cheat him, therefore resolves (if he could) to be too wise for the Goldsmith; and taking both the Rings into his hand, asks if he should have that Ring for 20 Pounds; Yes, replies the Goldsmith, but I suppose you come to sell, and not to buy; and that you may say I use you well, I'll give you 15 Pounds for yours: Nay (says

(says the Gentleman) since I have my choice to buy or sell, I won't refuse a good bargain, therefore I'll keep my own, and give you Money for yours: At this, the Goldsmith endeavour'd to seize on the Ring, which the Gentleman prevented, by laying down the Money; the Goldsmith finding himself catch'd, rav'd like a mad Man, commanding the Gentleman to give him his Ring; No (says he) 'tis mine, I have fairly bought it, and my Man is Witness of my bargain. This would not do with the Goldsmith, who immediately calls out, that the Countryman had cheated him; at which several People came about the Shop, but he was in such a tweague, that for his life, he could not tell his case, but orders a Constable to be call'd, and before a Justice he would go with the Countryman; where he complains that the Countryman had taken from him a Diamond Ring worth a 100 Pound, and would give him but 20 for it. Pray Mr. Goldsmith (says the Gentleman) take care what you say, or I shall vex you more than this; and then tells the Justice the whole matter, and

and calls his Man to witness the truth, which appears such a plain case, that the Justice gave it on the Gentleman's side; which set the poor Goldsmith into such a rage, that he call'd them all Cheats, and the Gentleman D—impostor; The Gentleman then told him, he would make him pay for his saucy Tongue, for abusing him, who 'twas well known, was a Gentleman of 500 Pounds *per Annum*, and lived at such a Place; This discovery so confounded the Goldsmith, that without speaking a word more, away he went, without any other satisfaction, than discovering his own intended cheat, while the Gentleman went to a Friend of his, telling him the Story; they send for a Jeweller, who at the first word, bid 95 Pounds for the Ring; which the Gentleman receiving, went immediately and ended his business, and taking Horse, delay'd no time while he reach'd home, and acquainted his Friends with his fortunate Adventure.

59.

There was a very good Man, that in the five and twentieth Year of his Age, fell desperate sick, that the whole
College

College of Physicians were of opinion, there was no saving of his Life without the use of a Woman; The poor Man lay humming and hawing a good while betwixt the Sin (as he thought it) and the Remedy; but in the end, gives up himself to the Doctors, to do as they thought fit; upon this, they by consent, put a good armful of warm Woman's Flesh into bed to him, by way of a Receipt, and so laid him to rest, till about two hours; at which time, they came to see how the Prescription had wrought, and there they found poor Religious, taring his hair, beating his breast, and groaning as if his heart would break, and falling to reasoning the matter with him; telling him the necessity of what was done: No, no, Gentlemen (says he) my grief is not thereabouts, but it goes to the Heart of me, to think how long I have lived in ignorance, and that this fit of Sicknes shou'd never take me sooner.

60.

A Gentleman told his Cook, he would dine on a Venison pasty, and orders him to provide him one; which he did with care, with two or three

C 3

Dishes

Dishes more ; and when they were ready, he brought up, in order ; first a good Surline of Beef ; which as soon as the Cook's back was turn'd, the Gentleman took and threw out of the Window ; up came the second Dish, and out of the Window his Master sent it after the other ; then enters the Venison-pasty, which the Cook flings out of the Window likewise ; at which, the Gentleman staring at, asked him, *What a P— he meant by that ?* Why Sir, answered the Cook, *I thought you intended to dine below, because you sent the Dishes down so hastily.*

61.

A Minister willing to instruct his ignorant Parishoners, & going to their Houses, amongst the rest, he visits an ancient Woman, whom he questions concerning a great many things ; but at length, asks her how many Commandements there was ? She told him, indeed she could not tell : Why (says the Minister) there's Ten : I'll assure you, cries the old Woman, a jolly company, God bleis you and them together. Well, but says the Parson, how many of these have you kept ? Ah, Lord bleis you Sir,

Sir, replies she, I am a poor Woman that can hardly keep my self, much less, be at the charge of keeping any of the Commandements for you.

62.

A jealous Husband committed his Wife to the care and custody of a particular Friend, with the promise of a great reward, if he could keep her honest; after some few days, the friend grew weary of his Charge, and desired the Husband to take home his Wife, and release him of his bargain; For, says he, I find 'tis impossible to hinder a Woman from any thing she has a mind to; if it were to turn a bag of Fleas loose into a Meadow every Morning a grazing, and fetch them home again at Night, I durst do it, even to a single Flea; but t'other is a matter I dare go no farther in, being so great an Impossibility.

63.

A Gentleman and his Man, riding from *Abington*; a Place the Man strangely liked, and being a special good Rimer, needs must Rime out something at parting: Therefore he begins;

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Fare-

*Farewel Abington, farewell to thee,
For thou hast got a Spire-like a Daggars sheath.*

At which his Master smiling, told him,
Indeed he was an excellent Poet. That
again inspiring his Muse, he Answers;

*Well Rim'd Master, well rim'd Man,
For thou hast got a head like a brass pot.*

How you dog, says the Gentleman, what
do you compare my Head to a brass
Pot: Oh Sir, cries the fellow, I
heartily ask your pardon, but to mor-
row I'll certainly make you amends;
And accordingly, the next Morning he
goes to his Master's Door with a Fag-
get on his back, bawling out with all
his might,

*Good morrow Master, good morrow O,
For I have brought a Fagget to your Chamber:*

64.

A young Spark dining at a Friend's
house, & having promis'd a Lady to meet
her in the Afternoon; but being enga-
ged at Cards, was obliged to send his
Man to excuse him to the Lady; and
whispe-

whispering him in the ear, ordered him, that what ever Answer the Lady returned, he should tell him as if it were from a Man. Away goes the fellow, and in a little time, comes back to his Master, who asked him aloud before the Company; What, was the Gentleman at home; Yes Sir, says the Man; And what said he to you? He said Sir, you might any other time; Why, what was he doing, replies the Gentleman? He was a putting on his Hood and Scarf, to go to the Park, says the Man. This blunder of the Fellow discovering the Intreague, set the Company a laughing very heartily.

65.

A Cobler, that often complemented his Wife, for each little, or no fault, with D—m ye, what would you be at; had by his frequent repetition, taught it a Magpy that he kept; which one Day got out of the Cage, and hops from House to House, while it came to a Quakers Meeting, who, at that instant, was groaning greatly in Spirit; the Magpy hearing an odd sort of a noise, lays his ear to the tyling, to listen, but not hearing perfectly there,

C 5 flies

flies on the Chimney, but through too earnest attention, makes a false step, and down the Chimney drops Mag; who in falling, his Wings made a mighty rumbling, that strangely amazed the holy Congregation; but they were much more astonish'd when Mag came forth, who flying on the Beam, turned first a one side, then another, crying several times, *D—m ye, what would you be at?* The Brothers concluded, it was no less than the Devil, and in great confusion were huddling out, while one of more resolution than the rest, desired they would have patience, and he would endeavour to speak to it; and with much light, and great strength, he demands what Satan would have there? But receiving no answer, he concludes *Belzebub* was angry; till a little Boy cried out, *It was nothing but Neighbour Jackson's Magpy.* Which then appear'd to be nothing else to all the Congregation; who in great wrath, sends for the Cobler to come and carry it home; which was done accordingly, and having pretty well recover'd their fright, went on with their groaning.

66.

A Country-man that had plow'd himself, and his Oxen, quite weary, mounted an Ass, with the Plow before him, and sent the Oxen to dinner; the poor Ass, he found, was ready to sink under his load, therefore he took up the Plow, and laid it upon his own shoulder; Now, says he to the Ass, *you may carry me well enough, when I carry the Plow.*

67.

A young Lady, seeing the Sheriff of a County, that was a very handsome Man, waiting on the Judge, who was old, she was asked by her Companions, which she fancy'd best, the Judge, or the Sheriff? *The Sheriff: Why so,* says a Gentleman that stood next her? *Because,* answered she, *tho' I love Judgement well, yet I like Execution much better.*

68.

Two friends meeting on the Road after some years absence; and after the usual greeting of old acquaintance, one tells the other, he was married: The other reply'd, *That's well indeed;* *Not so well neither,* says he, *for my Wife's a scold;*

scold ; That's ill, cries the other ; No, not so ill, said he, for I had 2000 Pounds with her ; Why, that's well again, cries his friend ; Not so well neither, for I laid it out in Sheep, and they died of the Rot ; That was ill, said the other ; No, not so ill neither, for I sold the Skins for more than the Sheep cost ; That was well though, quoth his friend ; Not so well neither, said he, for I bought a House with the Money, and that was burned ; That's very ill, said the other ; Nay, not so ill neither, says he, for my Wife was burned in it.

69.

A Gentleman riding into the Country, overtook a young brisk Lass ; who after some time travelling together, consented to his amours ; but the Man, conscious of what he had done, and that it might prove prejudicial to the Maid, told her, If any thing came of their endeavours, she should hear of him at such a place in *Camberwel* : No, 'tis no matter Sir, says she, for I am to be married a *Thursday*.

70.

A Widow having a great fancy for a second Husband, consults a gossiping Companion

Companion of hers, how to mannage the job; the truth of it is, I have a mind for another bedfellow, but the devilish People will keep such a staring and pointing at me, they'd make me weary of my Life. You are a fine Widow indeed, says t'other, to mind the talk of the People; prethy mind what I say to you; you have an Ass in your Grounds, go your way, and have it painted green, and then let him be carried up and down the town for a show; do this, I say, out of hand. Away goes the Woman, and has the thing done accordingly, and for the first four or five days, the green Ass had all the Town at his heels, staring, and hooting after him: But in four or five days more, the humour was spoil'd, and the Ass might travel from morning to night, and no body take notice of him. Now, says the Adviser, a new married Widow, is a kind of a green Ass, that every bodies mouth is full of the first week, but in a week, or two more, the story will fall asleep of it self.

71.

A Citizen travelling into the Country, came into a very good Inn, where
the

the Master of the House was very complaisant, shewing him what Conveniences he had made; which was so far beyond the common Inns, that the Gentleman told him, it was a House fit for a Noble Man; at that, the Inn-keep in a great passion, call'd him Ras-cal, and abusive Fellow: The Gentleman could not imagine the cause of this sudden turn of humour, nor the meaning of his anger, went to the next House, where telling his Host the business, he inform'd him, that the Man had lately broke, and paid but a Noble in the Pound to his Creditors, which had enabled him to build that fine house.

72.

A Lady asking her surly Husband what a clock it was, just as an acquaintance came in, that happened to ask the same question: What a pox, says he, do you take me for a Town Clock, that is oblig'd to tell all the Parish?

73.

A Country fellow driving his Cart, was overtaken by a Lawyer that he knew; who calling mercifully to the fellow, asked him, why his fore-Horse was so fat, and the others so lean? Because,

cause, says *Hobnail*, my fore-Horse is a Lawyer, and the rest are his Clients.

74.

A Gentleman lighting out of his Coach, at *White-hall*, asked a Footman that stood there, What a clock it was? Sir, says the Footman, *what will you give me?* Why, replies the Gentleman, *must I give you anything to tell me that?* Yes Sir, says he, for we Courtiers never do anything without a Bribe.

75.

Two Men together upon a Journey, of very different humours; one of 'em went slugging on, with a thousand Cares in his head, often exclaiming, Lord, *what shall I do to live?* T'other jogg'd merrily away, and left all things to Providence and good Fortune. Well Brother (says Sorrowful) I wonder you can be so jocund! As I am a sinner, my Heart is ready to break, for fear I should want Bread: Come, come, says t'other, fall back, fall edge, the Resolution taken, and my mind's at Rest. What Resolution, asks his Companion? Why, Resolution, says he? To make the best shift I can: Ah! but for all that, cries t'other again, I have known a re-
solution

solute People as you, whose Confidence hath deceived them in the end. And so the poor Man fell into another fit of despair; till starting out on the sudden; Good lack, says he, *what if I should fall blind; And walks a good way with his Eyes shut, to trie how it would be, if that misfortune should befall him: In this interim, his fellow traveller that follow'd him, found a purse of Money; which made good his Doctrine, of leaving things to Providence; whereas the other missing it as a punishment for his distrust, and was ready to hang himself, for putting it out of his power of seeing it.*

76.

Says a tall Gentleman, going along with a little Man; The People won't gaze so much at a Pigny, because I am in your company: Yes, says the little Man, they will gaze the more, to see me have an Ass in my company, and not ride.

77.

A Gentlewoman that was married to a great Student, who was so very intent on his studies, that she thought herself slighted by him; and one day at dinner,

get, she wish'd herself a Book, to have more of his Company: Her Husband reply'd, If it could be so, I desire it may be an Almanack, that I may have a new one once a Year.

78.

A Country Fiddler was going to play a merry Jigg to some Lads and Lasses in the next Parish, and passing by a River, his Case flew open, and in dropped the Fiddle; at this misfortune, the poor fellow stood stamping, and scratching his head in a violent manner, when a Gentleman coming by, asked the Fiddler, What he ailed? Which he tells him: Indeed, says the Gentleman, I pity your Case; Pity my Case, cries the Fellow, a pox on you, pity my Fiddle, for my case is well enough.

79.

There was a stomachful Boy was put to School, but the whole World could not bring him to pronounce the first Letter of the Alphabet. Open your Mouth, says the Master, and crie (A); The Boy gapes, without so much as offering at the Vowel. When the Master could do no good upon him, his School-

School-fellows took him to task among themselves: Why, 'tis not so hard a thing to crie (*A*); No, says the Boy, 'tis not so hard neither; but if I should crie (*A*) once, they'd make me crie (*B*) too, and I'll never do that, I am resolv'd.

80.

A Country-man coming to *London*, that had never been there before, stood gazing and staring into almost every Shop, and coming to a Scrivener's Shop, the Scrivener ask'd him, What he would buy? What do you sell, says the Country-man? Why, Loggerheads, will you by one, answers the Scrivener? Yes, says he; but sure you have a woundy trade, that you have but one left in the Shop.

81.

A Gentleman of a plentiful Estate, had the misfortune to marry a very parricant Lady, who often made him wish, that Peace was to be bought in the Market, as well as Meat and Drink. It happened, that a poor Cobler had a little Shop under some part of the Gentleman's House; who, every Morning, was observ'd to be early at his work.

work, singing and whistling very merrily; this fellow; the Gentleman often thought on, and in his thoughts, believed him happier than a Prince; and taking an opportunity of discouraging him, asked, How much he got a Year at his trade; Faith Master, says the Cobler, I keep no Count Book, for if I can get bread for my Wife and my self, I never trouble my self for to-morrow. The Gentleman goes his ways, heartily wishing himself but half so easie as this Cobler, who he still observes to be pleasant and singing, with all the satisfaction in the World: Well thinks the Gentleman, I will try if I can't find out away to alter this fellow's easie temper; and accordingly he contrives underhand, to have his Wife informed of strange things against him; which, she failed not to rattle him soundly for; nevertheless, the Cobler still kept to his merry facetious humour, quite regardless of his Wife's scolding; which caused the Gentleman, to conclude his contrivance of none effect, therefore he resolves to see what Mony will do, and to put his second plot in practice; he makes a hole

hole in the Cealing, and lets down a 100 Pound bag on the Cobler's bench, which the next morning, at his coming to work, he soon finds, and in great amazement he takes it up, carries to his Wife, who in as much surprize as himself, cannot once think how it cou'd come there; but since 'twas so, they enjoin each other to secrefie, and agree upon burying it in the Garden; which accordingly they do, and to work goes the Cobler; but from the time forward, there was no more singing, whistling, or sleeping with the poor fellow, who every quarter of an hour, would tuck up his Apron, and run to see if the Money were safe; nay, neither Cat nor Dog must budg, but whip, he'd be after it, that with his care and jealonsie, his Life was a burthen to him. This the Gentleman perceiving, he goes to the Cobler, and demands the reason of this sudden alteration of humour in him? I know not Master, says the Cobler, I think the Devil is in me, for I am easie no where; Why, asks the Gentleman, is there a more than usual cause happen'd to you? Usual, do you call it, cries the fellow, then

then faith Sir, I'll tell you, about a Week ago, I found a purse of Money, which thro' my fear of losing, is such a plague to me, that I'm almost mad. Pray where did you find this Money, says the Gentleman? Why, in here, in this very place I set in, answers the Fellow; but how it came there, unless it was conjur'd, I cannot tell. Well, to put you out of your pain, says the Gentleman, the Money is mine, and I convey'd it there. The Cobler makes no more disputes, but away he runs, takes up the Money, and trudging to the Gentleman, begg'd, if he had any Charity in the World, to let him have his Songs and Sleep again, and to take back the 100 Pound, with a thousand thanks into the bargain. The Gentleman takes the Money which he found, to a farthing, as he left it, and giving the Cobler forty Shillings, dismissed him; plainly seeing, there was more trouble in Money, than with a scolding Wife, therefore resolves for the future, to follow the Cobler's rule, and never mind her clamor.

82.

A Gentleman had a great inclination
to

to enjoy a young Lady, and watching his opportunity, comes into her Chamber as she was laying on the bed; and coming up to her, cries, I baw crying out Madam; She replies, Bar the Door, you fool; Which he quickly does, and gains his end.

83.

An honest good natur'd Husband, was quite at his wits end, for the loss of his poor Wife, that had newly hanged herself upon a Fig-tree in his Garden: A conceited Neighbour of his, instead of condoling with him for the Loss, made him a visit, to joy him of his Deliverance; the first Ceremony of the greeting was no sooner over, but he made a Suit to the Widower, for a graft or two of the same Plant; for who knows (says he) but it may bear the same Fruit in my Garden, that it did in yours.

84.

A poor Woman coming to the Parson, to desire he would preach a Funeral Sermon on her Son, that was lately dead: the Parson told her, He would do it; But she desiring to know what he must have, he told her, Twenty Shillings:

Shillings: Twenty Shillings, says she, an Ais spoke for an Angel, and won't you spake under twenty Shillings? The parson displeased at her Words, told her, She was better fed than taught: Indeed Sir, says she, that's true, for my Husband feeds me, but you teach me.

85.

A Bishop of *Cologne*, marching at the head of a fine Army, and in the double capacity, both of a Soldier and a Church-man: Lord! says a country fellow, 'tis a strange thing methinks, that your Master, *St. Peter*, should die so poor himself, and leave his followers so well to pass; Right (says the Bishop) but I am here in the Quality of a General, as well as a Prelate: ah, my Lord (says the fellow) but if a General shou'd chance to go to the Devil, what will become of the Bishop, I beseech you?

86.

An *Oxford* Scholar coming to *London*, went to a House of Iniquity, in *Covent-garden*, at the *Flower-de-luce*, and there got a Clap; whereupon, over the Door, at his going away, he writ this Verse:

AB

*All you that hither chance to come,
 Mark well e're you go in,
 For French Mens arms, are signs without,
 And French mens harm within.*

87.

A Poor honest Sea-man going along Voyage, left a brisk young Wife behind him, but in a miserable Cottage, with nothing but bare Walls; not so much as a cross in her-pocket, to keep the Devil out, and hardly a rag to cover her nakedness: After a matter of five years absence, the Sea-man came back again, and finds his Habitation in great order, furnish'd from top to bottom, with a brave Boy, of some three years old, into the bargain. The fellow was wonderfully pleased at seeing such an improvement, only the Child stumbled him a little; upon this, he fell to examining his Wife's how this, and that, and t'other came about? Why, my dear (says she) 'tis all by Providence: What, Child and all, cries the Husband! Yes indeed, says she, Child and all: That's very strange, replies the good Man, but what must

be, must be; but yet, by your favour Wife, when Providence had furnished my House, I shou'd have been well pleas'd, to have been the Father of my own Children.

88.

This was much such another Providence, as that of the honest Woman's great Belly, in the Revolution of *Ferry One*, when her Husband had been three Years in *Plymouth*: 'Tis true, says she, my Husband has been three years away, but I have had very comfortable Letters from him.

89.

A Gentleman that had a Suit in *Chancery*, was call'd upon by his Council, to put in his Answer, for fear of incurring a contempt: Well, says the Spark, and why is not my Answer put in then? How should I draw your Answer (says the Lawyer) without knowing what you can swear: Pox of the Scruple (cries the Client) pray do your part of a Lawyer, and draw me a sufficient Answer, and let me alone to do the part of a Gentleman, and swear it.

90.

A country fellow that had been to see almost all the fine sights about the Town, as the Lions, the Bears, the Play house, the Lord Mayor's show, the Tombs, and the like; thought all this nothing, unless he had seen Bedlam too; therefore his acquaintance, one morning, in a banter, has him to the *Commons Lobby*, telling him, *Bedlam* was within there, and if he did but peep in the next Room, he might see the Mad Men. The House, it seems, at that time was in a heat, and such a noise and hurry along with it, that upon opening the Door, the poor country-man scow'd off at the fright, with an out-cry all the way he went, that the mad-men were all broke loose, and like to tear every body a pieces.

91.

In the days when good Women were in fashion, there was one who valu'd her self highly for the goodness of her retentive faculty in keeping a Secret; which her Husband resolved to make tryal of; and one morning, waking in the greatest confidence imaginable, telling her one of the strangest things
that

that ever was, had that night besel him; but my dear (says he) if you speak on't again, I am utterly ruin'd: Ah, my love (says she) indeed I am none of the number of those Women, to betray their Husbands Secrets; no, if I do, may— Her Husband at that word, stopp'd her Mouth, for fear of some bloody imprecation, saying, Come wife, they that swear, will lye, therefore I'll rather tell you upon honour; look you here what has befall'n me, I have laid an Egg to night; and taking the Egg from his backside, he bid her feel on't; but if ever this shou'd come to light, People wou'd say, I was Hen-trod, and the disgrace will make me a scandal to Mankind. This Secret lay burning in her breast, and kept her waking while 'twas day light enough to dress her by, and then out of bed she steals from her Husband, and posts away to a gossiping Neighbour of hers, and hurries her out of her bed, charms, and swears her to privacy, and then out comes the Secret, that her Husband had laid two Eggs that very night: This Confidant tells another Confidant, and there it was three Eggs;

the next made it four, and so it went on, increasing still, from one gossip to another, till by six a clock in the afternoon, they'd made the one Egg forty.

92.

A certain Noble Man that kept a Fool for his diversion, in a laced coat; and the Duke of G— coming to make the Gentleman a visit, meeting the Fool at the Gate, making dirt pies; the Duke asked him whose Fool he was? Why, such a ones, says the fool; (and seeing the Duke's Coat imbroider'd) cries, And whose fool are you pray?

93.

A country Lass with a Pail upon her head, coming with her Milk to the Market, fell to caking it up all the way she went, what pretty account her Stock might come to with a little good Huswifery; this Milk, says she, will bring me so much ready money; that money will buy me so many Eggs; these Eggs so many Chickens; and with the Fox's leave, those Poultry will make me mistress of a Pig; and that Pig, may grow a fat Hog, and that I'll sell, and buy me a Cow and Calf; and then (says she) comes a Sweet-heart, perhaps a Yeoman;

Yeoman; him I marry, then my Neighbours will say, *How do you, Goody such a one?* And I answer, *Thank you Neighbour, how d'you?* But may be, my Sweet-heart may be a Farmer; then 'twill be *Mrs. such a one, how d'you do?* I'll say, *Thank you:* Oh, but suppose I should marry a Gentleman, then it will be, *Your Servant Madam:* But then I'll toss up my head, and won't speak at all. Upon the transport of this thought, with the motion, down came the pail of Milk, and put an end to the whole Story of the Eggs, Poultry, the Pig, the Hog, and all the whimses that went along with it.

94.

A good saving Woman, having only her Husband and self, with a Maid in the house, and was unwilling to be at the trouble of making two beds, therefore orders the Maid, to lye on the off side of her and her Husband; but one night, her next door neighbour being in Labour, call'd up the good Woman, who quickly slipped on her Cloaths, and without waking either her Husband or Maid, stepped to her assistance; and after the business was well over, she

D 3

starts.

starts up in a great haste, and was going away; which the Company by perswasion, wou'd fain have hinder'd, till she had eaten part of their good Cheer; but no arguments could prevail, but home she must go by all means; and pressing earnestly to know the reason of her sudden hast; Oh lack (says she) I had quite forgot, I had left my Husband fast asleep, in bed with a young Woman, and if either of them shou'd happen to wake before I come back, they'd be frightn'd out of their wits.

95.

A Gentleman going to the Bowling-Green, but forgetting a pair of Bowls he had for his own use, sends his Servant (who was an Irish Man) to fetch them; but he mistaking his Master, runs into the Close to fetch the Bull, who would not come without the Cows, that the fellow was forc'd to drive 'em together into the Green: *Sirrah* (says the Gentleman) *what do you mean by this, where's my Bowls? Why, dear Joy, cries Teague, here is thy Bull, but upon my Shoul, I cou'd not get the cross bitch to come without his Moder and Sisters, and dat be the cause I stay'd so long indeed.*

96. A

96.

A Lady in the Winter, being alone in the Parlour, takes the advantage to warm her backside, by holding up her Coats, with her back to the fire; when her Footman entring the Room hastily, tells her, Sir such a one, her humble servant, was just come to see her: The Lady transported with the news of the Spark's arrival, and forgetting the posture she stood in, turns fairly round, shewing her B—ch to the fellow; crying, *Good lack, that he should come now.*

97.

A Nobleman, in a merry humour sent for his Chaplain, and told him, That unless he could resolve him three Questions, he shou'd be discharged from his Service; but if he did answer, then he shou'd have 30 Guineas, and the best Horse in the Stable: and therefore proposes the Questions; which were these: 1. What Compass the World was about? 2. How deep the Sea was? And lastly, What he thought? The poor Chaplain, in a pack of cares, knew not how to answer them, or what to say, and all he cou'd do then,

D 4

was

was to desire a little time to consider upon it; which the Earl granted: and into the fields goes the Chaplain very melancholy, where he meets a Miller belonging to the Town; (a merry fellow, that was very like the Chaplain, both in face and height) and entering into discourse with the Miller, he wou'd fain know the cause of the Chaplain's uneasiness; which, with some reluctancy, he told him: Ah Master, don't be dejected, chear up (quoth the Miller) I warrant, I think of a project to save your Place, and get you the Money and Horse too, on condition that you give me ten Pounds for my pains. That I will, says the Chaplain; Then strip, cries the Miller, and change Cloaths, then I'll go to my Lord, and answer his Questions. Accordingly he went; and to the first Question, What compass the World was about? he answer'd, It was four and twenty Hours Journey, for if a Man could keep pace with the Sun, he might easily go it in that time. The second, How deep the Sea was? he answered, Only a stones throw; for cast it into the deepest place of it, and in time it wou'd come to the bottom.

To

To the third, (which I suppose, your Lordship thinks the most difficult to be resolved) that is, What your Honour thinks? I answer, that you think I am your Chaplain, when indeed, I am but the Miller of *Gloucester*. The Earl was so well pleased with the Jest, that he perform'd his Promise to his Chaplain, and gave the Miller ten Pound for his humour.

98.

A Man that made a conscience, both of an Oath, and of a Law Suit, had the wit to make a greater conscience of losing an Estate, for want of suing, and swearing to defend it, therefore consults the Chapter of Dispensations and compounds the matter with certain salvo's; and whereas thou talkest (says he) to a friend of his, of suing and swearing: Why, for the one, 'tis my Attourney's Oath; and then for the other, what signifies the kissing of the Book with a Calves-skin cover, and a Pastboard stiffening between a Man's Lips and the Text.

99.

A King that kept a Jester in his Court, who us'd to write down in his

D s

Book,

Book, all the Follies of the great Men in the Palace: The King, one day, for his diversion, looking in the Book, found himself in it, with a Story of five thousand Pounds that he had given a Jew, to go into *Barbary* to buy Horses with. Well (says the King) and pray why am I put in your Book? For giving your money to one you may never see again, answers the Jester: But what if he shou'd return with the Horses, where's the folly then, says the King? Why, if he does, replies *Scoggin*, I'll blot your Name out, and put his Name in for a fool, that cou'd not keep the money when he had it.

100.

A silly fellow went to *Smithfield* to sell his Horse; a Jockey ask'd him how old his Horse was? He told him, Fourteen Hands: He seeing the fellow's ignorance, ask'd him other Questions, and amongst the rest, demands how high his Horse was? He answer'd, Six Years: Well, says the Jockey, and has the Horse got all his paces? Yes yes, cries the fellow; Pray, what are his paces, asks the Jockey? Why, says the fellow, Trot, Stumble, and Fall.

101. A

101.

A Gentleman of a pleasant facetious humour, had invited all his Acquaintance to take a light Supper with him; (as he call'd it) and for their reception, every thing was splendidly prepar'd, the Table spread with very fine Linnen, and a silver Candlestick, with a Wax-candle burning by every Plate: The Guest being come, he welcomes them in a Glass of Wine; (of which there was plenty) and after the complementary strain was over, he desired the good Company to seat themselves at the Table, telling them, he was as good as his word, in providing a light Supper for them, and therefore hoped they wou'd fall to: At this, they all look'd upon one another, and most of the Company rising with displeasure in their faces, asked the Gentleman, If he could find no other People to put his tricks on, but them, and in a huff, made their exit; the remaining Company laugh'd at the humour, and told the Gentleman, that since they were come, they wou'd not part so; and propos'd, that one of them shou'd go out and buy a Supper, and send it in;

No

No Gentlemen, says the Master of the House, let me forbid that, and ask your patience, for a quarter of an hour, in that time, I may chance to find something just to stay your stomacks; and calling to his Servants, commands what the house afforded, to be served in; which proved to be a Supper compos'd of all the finest Rarities in season, with deserts of the best Sweet-meats in the World: Now my Friends, says the Gentleman, without a Complement, you are welcome on a double score, for by this I have plainly seen, who came for love of me, and who for my Supper.

*A LETTER against old Maids;
Written to a Lady in the Coun-
try.*

I.

I Heartily I were sure of being
out of th. reach before I begun
with 'em, for they have terrible fangs,
and if they should get me within 'em,
I must be fore'd to compound for one
Eye.

Eye and Ear, to save the others ; nay, 'tis dangerous ventring so much as within sight of them, for they are all weapon, and like Procupines, dart from every part ; or like some sort of Serpents, that twines about the unwary Traveller, and stings him to death.

*For ah ! who can their strength express ?
Arm'd when they themselves undress,
Cap-apee with ugliness.*

Doubtless, as charming a sight, as *Don Quixot* in his short shirt, and full as invincible ; Fate it self, holds not faster than one of these loving Furies : The Story of the *Gorgons*, I am apt to believe, was nothing else but three old Maids, who lived so long together, till they frightened Mankind almost into Marble, when ever their loathsom Faces, and snaky Hairs peep'd thro' the Casement ; and yet, we would wonder how so despiseable a Creature wou'd be so terrible : Is there any thing in nature, so mean, so useless, so contemptible ? An old Moth is worth a Regiment of them : But I ask their pardon, for on better thoughts, I believe they

set

set up all the Match-brokers, and Fortune-tellers in Christendom, and are constant and liberal Benefactors to these noble Societies; they are as credulous, as he must be that believes the thousandth part of the Stories, they tell of their youthful Amours—when they might have been married, how long since, and so often, in such, and such a King's Reign; to that Parson, and this Lawyer, and t'other pretty Gentleman. Thus would they talk over another Age, if any thing could make them young again; besides, what they dream of every Night, certainly this discourse wou'd do it. Thus far however you may venture to believe 'em, that they have had many fair proffers in their time, since they themselves have made them. But one good quality they have, they are not envious, nor malicious, any otherways than an *African* Lady, to one who refuses her; nor talkative, ten fulling Mills may make a shift at least, to keep pace with one of their modest Clacks, if not to silence 'em, and make them dumb as Paraquets. Add to this, the Gravity of their Beards, the Decency of their
Musta-

Mustachies that usually adorns their Lips and Chins, and qualifies 'em so admirable well, for the honour of being the Countess of *Trifaldis's* Waiting-Gentlewoman: Had they all as many Hands as Briareus, and every one armed with as many Tweezers, there would be full employment for 'em all. An old Maid in a Common-wealth, is much such another Impliment, as an Eunuch in a Seraglio, full out as jealous and spiteful as he, and much for the same reason; 'tis not easie to know for what else she was design'd, (since it looks harsh to grant, Nature made any thing in vain) unless, to be a Sister in an Hospital, having spent so much of their Life amongst Issues and Plasters: Sure there's a sort of sympathy between a sore Leg, and this lump of Diseases; whilst her gummy Eyes overflow her Spectacles; poor *Ursula* weeps whether she will or no, and has the good fortune to be reckoned compassionate, when she's only infirm, and her eyes troubled with a diabetes. Old Rats loves Cheese, old Spiders, young Flies, and old Maids, young brisk Fellows; which, poor souls, they are forced

ced to peach for, tho' now and then, they truss up a foolish Prentice, or poor needy Tradesman, away with them into their holes, and immediately devour 'em. In forreign Countries, 'tis said, there's a subtil Beast, that comes by night to their Village Houses, and exactly counterfeits a Woman's Voice, making pittiful moan for admittance, or crying out for help; whom, if the fond credulity of the Inhabitants can once be prevail'd upon to admit, they pay dear for their good nature, one of the Company at least, being sure to make their new Guest a Supper: But these she Cannibals, these flesh Crows, these Men-catchers, these old Maids, are even with him for scandalizing their Sex, and do more than counterfeit the Hyena.

*The ANSWER in Defence of
Old Maids.*

Nothing is more obvious than Re-
commentation in all these cases,
and the old Batchellor, Sir T. wou'd
be

be an excellent match for your old Maids : But not to insist always on that method of Defence, which besides, cannot immediately affect you : Sir, I would be reckon'd a young Widower ; I however, ask leave to insist on some of the conveniencies and excellencies of old Maids, which your rude Sex so much despise ; ungrateful Men that you are, tho' you can't remember your infancy, don't you believe you were once Children—yes, and must be so again, if you live much longer ; and in both those circumstances, if you consider'd the indispensable use of a careful old Maid, you wou'd have gratitude, or at least, more wit, than thus to rail against them : How many wakeful Nights, and weary Days, have the poor souls worn out in young Master's service, tho' now you so little regard 'em ? how many Garters have they broke in rocking him ? what terrible colds, and humours, and aches, in taking him up, and walking up and down the room with him, in cold frosty Nights, to quiet him ? nay, how much precious juice, have the poor creatures wrang out of their own gums,

to

to mix with his pap, when feeding him, that it might not burn him? and all, all for ever forgotten; where's Gratitude, where's Honour, or Sympathy, or Generosity? meer shadows and romantick tales like these, which these poor forsaken dry Nurses, were wont to tell their Children, to quiet 'em: Well, comfort your selves, poor hearts; tho' by this time, they are got to their Breeches, and can put them up and down without your help; you'll see them again sooner than you imagine; they run fast, their race will soon be over, and they'll come again, and be a second time under your tuition, sooner than they, or you are aware: do but live honestly, and without fretting, and when they come to be old Men, you'll find but little difference in your own ages, since you first nurs'd 'em: This they must come to again, therefore one wou'd expect, they shou'd be more civil for that reason; as the fellow was once to the Devil himself, whom he would not hear abused, because he did not know whose hands he might fall into. The same watching, the same tucking up, the same warm
cloaths,

cloaths, flannel, and candle, they us'd to have when they were young; it may be too, you must come into bed to his old worship, as you did to his young worship, to cherish him, and keep him warm, and rub him for the *Sciatica*, and you may do it, without any scandal or danger; alas, the harmless creature, it has no more hurt in't, than a chrisome infant, it may be, 'twill smirk a little, now and den, and be waggish, and chirrup, but that's all, and you know there's no hurt in that: It used to puke mightily when 'twas young, a good sign, and a thriving Child I warrant it: Why, just so it spits now for all the world, and Mrs. Nurse will be more put to it, to keep it dry, and must be changing its bib, four or five times, in four and twenty Hours; sometimes it wants to sh— and then Nurse must be call'd, and many a sore tug must she have with him; for now the Child grows heavy, and you wou'd not think how much care is required to keep it sweet: besides, 'tis a froward poor thing, as if it had got the Gripes, or cutting its Eye-teeth again: Nurse — why Nurse — where
are

are ye? (if she goes but a moment about the most necessary occasions) then away flies the Bedstaff, some two or three inches after her, and a Cough comes in the room on't, that just strangles him, and holds him for half an hour; a little Sirrup, good Nurse—Ehe—ehe— I am just going, Ehe—Ehe— so, let me set up in bed; wipe away here from my Beard this — ah dear Nurse, that ever I shou'd come to— O ye servant Sir *T.* how do you like your Picture: Yet this you must be in a few Years, or nothing; and then an old Maid must be such a contemptible creature; and if you wou'd not your self be despised, and neglected when your old, your best way will be, to treat them civilly before you need them.

A Receipt to Cure Mad Love.

Probatum est.

Take an Ounce of common Prudence,
 a Scruple of Self-love, and a Dram
 of the Powder of Fore-sight, with half a
 pound

found of other folks dear bought Experience, which may be had at a cheap rate, in almost every Family; mix these well together, and temper with it a few drops of serious Consideration, and apply it to the soft place of the Head: You may repeat the Application as often as you please.

NOVEL I.

I.

NOT far from London there lately dwelt a Lady; (who upon many accounts, deserv'd a more than ordinary respect from all Person); who had the good fortune to have the honour of her acquaintance; but from her Relations, she merited it upon another motive, as engaging as any that you can think of; and that was, the advantage of having a great deal of Riches, and a very good Estate to leave amongst them, when she shou'd die. Now, as nothing works more upon us than the expectation of great Gain, so you may imagine, that her Relations were all of them extreamly industrious to make a shew of that great Zeal, with which

which they would be willing to serve her, and they amongst them, looked upon themselves to be fortunate, that could seize upon most of those happy opportunities. This was the case in a fit of Sickneſs, which this good Lady chanc'd to labour under, wherein ſhe was almoſt kill'd with double diligence; and made light-headed, with impertinencies, of How do you Madam, & perpetual buzzings of Prayers for her Recovery, which the officious Relations, would be ſure to utter loud enough for to frighten, and interrupt her in her broken ſlumbers, tho' at the ſame time they ſpoke ſo ſoftly, as if they were afraid that Heaven ſhould hear them, and take them at their word: However, the Lady did recover, and all their diligence, and too frequent enquiries after her Health, which were enough to have broke a ſtronger Conſtitution than hers, were quite thrown away upon her; ſhe does recover, as I told, notwithſtanding all their care of her; ſhe old and tough, who knows how long ſhe may live, or when ſhe may die? This was a tormenting thought to all her Relations, they lov'd her

her too well not to be extreemly grieved that there was no hopes, but that the old Lady should linger on in pain a great while, and it was a most disconsolate prospect to them, that they could not see when their dearest friend should be released from this miserable Life; they had waited a great while longer than they desired, already, and a great while longer they were like to wait: This you may be sure, render'd the old Lady's Sickness, the most insupportable Affliction to them in the World, and as they were of good family, and well bred, they could but wish it otherwise, which the good gentlewoman perceives very well, and was so careful of repaying them with an equal Generosity, that she acquaints them one day, that she was resolv'd to marry, and by that means, said she, I will admit another into the Family, who being a brisk young Gentleman, will have strength and courage enough, to help ye to bear some of this insupportable affliction, which I find is too heavy for ye; besides, I will oblige him before hand, to take the greatest trouble of all off of your hands; (that is, the laying out
of

of my Money, and ſpending my Eſtate) or elſe, I promiſe you beforehand, I will have nothing to do with him. To put this Promiſe, made to her Friends, in execution, that ſhe might not be worſe to them than her word, ſhe ſends away to a Neighbour, who had a younger Brother, a pretty young Gentleman, and him ſhe acquaints, that ſhe had reſolv'd within herſelf, for divers reaſons, to marry, and that amongſt all People ſhe had turn'd her eyes upon, ſhe could not think of any, that better deſerved the good fortune of having a great Eſtate conferr'd upon him, than his younger Brother, that therefore ſhe had reſolved, that his Merit ſhou'd not be diſappointed in that behalf, and that if he thought convenient to marry her, all ſhe had, ſhould be at his ſervice: The Gentleman returns her thanks on his Brother's behalf, whom he believes to have more diſcretion than not to accept of the honour that ſhe deſign'd him, that he wou'd take care to communicate him the knowledg of his good fortune, with all the ſpeed imaginable. This meſſage diſpatch'd by the old Lady, the young Gentleman is ſent for,

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to his Brother, who acquaints him with what good Fortune was like to befall him; who on the other hand, receives the News with an unspeakable coldness and indifference; being pressed for his Answer, tells his Brother, That he can't think of any such thing, without horror and confusion; that he had already vow'd himself to a young Lady, to whom he was not only engag'd by Words, and Oaths, but by a Passion more violent than ever possessed any heart, but his own; that he could have wish'd, his Brother had spar'd himself the trouble of being the Messenger of this unwelcome News; and old Madam might keep her Estate, or bestow it on some body that could be disingenuous enough to accept of her Wealth, and pay her well for it afterwards, as for him, he could never be so dishonest. I leave you to consider, saith the elder, whether these Punctilio's, are, or ought to be so strongly insisted on, as you seem at present to imagine: And so they parted; away goes the younger Brother to his fair beloved, where he throws himself at her Feet. *'Tis with the utmost horror*

and confusion, Madam, (saith he) that I must acquaint you, how strangely Fortune takes delight to perplex us; I have been solicited to be false to you, but in so odd a manner, (as now I consider better of it) ought to have put me into a sudden fit of laughter, rather than amazement: My Brother hath been advising me to marry Madam—who, as a Bait to tempt me to so much folly, as he informs, offers at the same time, to settle all upon me: But if ever I prove false, or ungrateful; if ever I forget the Passion which I have for you, or if any other thoughts, but those of honour and respect, and the greatest tenderness for your self, enter into my heart, may— Hold Sir, (saith the young Lady) I shall spare you the trouble of proceeding in this nature; and with a charming softness, mix'd with unusual modesty, dropping her Head into his Bosom, I tell you (saith she) I believe all that you can swear to be true, and shou'd be very uneasie if I should believe otherwise; your Friendship is a Jewel that I place a true value upon, and to shew you how great my esteem is for you, I shall make bo'd to give you such advice, as you ought to expect from a true Friend, and one that va-

lues,

lues, and places an Interest in every degree of your Welfare, and therefore desire, and command you, by all that reciprocal kindness which hath past between us, and which I hope, shall not end, but with our Lives, that you follow and obey it. Go marry, and make your self happy: I do not bid you forget me; nay, I must confess, I wou'd have you love me still. And here she blush'd, and paus'd: At which, the Lover reassuming the Discourse. *Marry Madam, and be happy—Impossibility and Contradiction, not being spoken of Yourself.* Sir, (replies she, with a look at the same time, lovely and imperious) I hope y^e will not give me reason to dispute the truth of your Passion, and render me absolutely miserable, in causing me to doubt, whether you ever lov'd me, by refusing me in this; which, as it is my first, so it shall be my last Request: 'Tis true, I place my Happiness in yours, and for that reason, command you to marry; for I shall be eternally burthensome to my self, should I hinder your Prosperity, and on the other side, shall be infinitely pleas'd, that it is only to my command and advice, you will owe the being settled in great Riches.

a large Estate; shew me your Love therefore by your Obedience, and assure your self that you can never be otherwise than belov'd by me, when you shall have given me so large a proof of your Affection; till then, I ought not to think so well of you, as I do, nor will I see you any more till then. On which words, she departed, and would not hear him a word. It was hard for the poor Gentleman thus to be constrain'd, to think of what he had an aversion to, marriage with any but his lovely Mistress; but to contradict it, was in vain, he found she would be obey'd, and therefore he endeavours all he can, to bring himself to comply with her Commands. Why should I make long of the Story, or trouble you with the Repetition of all the generous and handsome Protestations of inviolable Love, and of preferring her before all the Riches in the World, which he made to this inexorable fair one? She would not hear one word of it, nothing could convince her of his Reality, and Sincerity, but marrying the old Woman. He complies, and notice is given to the Lady. The Day is appointed. The appointed Day comes: The Marriage

riage is perform'd with a great deal of pomp and Solemnity. The Gentleman Bridegroom is taken on one side by the Waiting Gentlewoman, to see the Nuptial Bed that was prepar'd for him; where, notwithstanding, the warm doings which he supposed his old Bedfellow that is to be, expected; he seeth all things lin'd with Furrs, and Flannel, nay, even so much as the Wedding-sheets are flannel: He desires the Maid to perswade her Lady, that they might be chang'd for Linnen, he would secure her from catching cold. It would be in vain (replies the other) she will by no means suffer them to be chang'd; and for that reason hath contriv'd that you might see them, and know so much, lest being ignorant of it, you shou'd have been surpriz'd at the matter. In a word, Night comes, to bed they are put, the Sack-posset is eaten, and the Bride and Bridegroom left to finish the Solemnity. No sooner are they left alone, but the old Lady begins to knock for her Waiting-Woman, who coming in, *Reach your Master his Nightgown and Slippers;* and—Madam replies—*Nay Sir,* (saith the

E 3 Bride)

Bride) you must rise, 'tis in vain to dispute it, you must rise; I have done all that lay in my power, to make you absolute Master of an Estate, which is not to be despiz'd, though it be less than you deserve; and I would not have you think, I married for any other ends, I had none of those wanton Designs in my head, that Women of my age, commonly have, when they act in this manner; I very well know, I am not a fitting Bedfellow for a young Gentleman of your Youth and Air; I hope my Estate will be a little more serviceable to you, in another way, than I can be in that. I am not ignorant of your love neither, to young Madam—I have heard of your generous Proceedings towards one another, I admire and esteem you both for it, and am sorry that my Estate was not larger, to confer upon you, that it might more aptly testifie me, the sincere respect I have for so much Generosity and Honour: But in the interim, I detain you, I fear your Health, pray retire to bed, in the Morning you shall know my mind more at large. Surpriz'd at so unusual, yet so handsome a proceeding, he withdraws, fill'd with much respect, for what he thought he should never

never endure, viz. his old Lady; and is conducted to an Apartment in all points fit for a young Bridegroom: To be short, the old Gentlewoman never ceased till she had gain'd an acquaintance with her Husband's beloved; brings her home one day to her own house, of which she assures generously, when she had taken her aside into her Closet, that she was in the right of such an one; (naming her spouse) the absolute Mistress would never suffer her to depart any more, useth them both with the most endearing tenderness in the World; they are confounded at her goodness, and all live together with the greatest satisfaction, freedom, and innocence in the World; the old Gentlewoman grows weak, and so much had her Friendship prevail'd upon this generous Couple, that they are even sick for her; her departure draws near, and one day, as they were alone in their Chamber; *I am a going*, (saith she, with a voice so weak, as could hardly be heard) *continue to love one another, and be as happy as I wish ye, and have endeavour'd to make ye,* and immediately gives up

the Ghost, leaving them in so deep a sorrow, as is supposed, really would have over-whelmed them both, but for the mutual Comfort, which they found in one another: They prove true Mourners for the old Lady, and when the time was expired, which decency, and gratitude requir'd should be allotted to shew their sorrow, for the death of so true a Friend, the Lovers, to their unspeakable satisfaction, married, and live to this day, and triumph in the Spoils of the old Ladys ungrateful, and unregenerous Relations.

2.

— A Lady of a plentiful Fortune in *Essex*, that was Contracted to a Gentleman of the same County; came up to *London*, to celebrate their Nuptials; and bringing with them a considerable company of Gentlemen and Ladies, concludes it more convenient to take up their Quarters in some good Inn, than carry such a concourse of People to their Friends or Acquaintance: Therefore they repair to the *Spread Eagle* in *Gracious-street*, for the time of their stay in Town, where every thing was managed with great carefulness and magnificence,

ficence, as the cause requir'd, and all the Inn fill'd with the good Company, except two Chambers, three Gentlemen from *Cambridge* had taken before. They passed away the time very pleasantly in Dancing, and such like Diversions, for several Days and Nights, that quite tired two of the Ladys; who agreed upon, not saying any thing to the rest of the Company, but steal to bed; which accordingly they did; where they had not lain long, e're one of the Ladys having an occasion for the Chamberpot, met with a disappointment, through the Maids neglecting, in not setting it in the proper place, which put the Lady to the trouble of slipping into her Nightgown, and going to a convenient Closet, at the end of the Gallery; in the mean time, the forementioned Gentlemen came in, and one of them being tired with hard drinking, went straight into his Chamber, (that happen'd to be next to the Ladys) and when he was in bed, he commands the Chamberlain to fetch a glass of Water: the Chamberlain takes up the Candle, and goes his ways; when the Lady having finish'd her business,

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ness, was returning to her Chamber, but through mistake, goes into the Gentleman's; and makes no words of the matter, flings off her Gown, and steps into bed: The Gentleman lay still in a sort of a surprize at what new Bedfellow he had got: when the Lady laughing, tells him how near the Chamberlain had lik'd to have surprized her at the little House; the Gentleman still says nothing, which makes the Lady conclude, her bedfellow was asleep, and giving him a hunch with her elbow, cries, How can you be such a sot, not to mind what I say: With that, the Gentleman taking her in his arms, intreated her not to be surprized, tho' he was not the Person she supposed, and that on his honour, he would not offer any thing unbecoming the strictest modesty: Nevertheless, she being strangely frightened, began to struggle, and cry out at this strange and unexpected accident: But the Gentleman desir'd, as she valued her Reputation, to lie still, for he heard his Companions coming into his Chamber, with the Chamberlain, who having told them, he was gone to bed, were

were come all hands to pull him out again; the Gentleman had just time to fling the Bedcloaths over the Ladys Head, and that was all; for in they came, rallying him for running away, and seizing the Cloaths, were for pulling them from off him; when he started up, as being displeased at the rudeness of their proceedings, desires them to go down, and each Man call for his Bottle, and gave them his word to come to them immediately. They were no sooner gone, but he fastens the Door, and notwithstanding the Lady's intreaties to be released, they would no way prevail on the Gentleman, unless she would tell him her Name, and who she was, and with intreaties, prayers, and arguments, he persists in the Request; when the Lady plainly told him, She wou'd as soon die, as declare, and therefore it wou'd be in vain to urge her farther, for tell him, she wou'd not. When he found she was so obstinate, he let her know she was at her liberty to go when she pleas'd; only intreated she wou'd remember, there was such a thing as Honour in a Man, even when he had

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the greatest temptations to the contrary. The Lady retiring to her Chamber, found her bedfellow soundly sleeping, and unsensible of her long stay: In the mean time, the Gentleman goes to his Friends, and altho' he drank very hard, still the Lady ran in his head; who he believes would be difficult to find out amongst so many as was then in the Inn. About morning he repairs to bed, but could not compose himself to rest, nor think of any probable means, whereby to discover who this same Lady should be. The morning draws on apace, and is accompany'd with a noise of Musick, which comes to bid the Bride and Bridegroom good-morrow; up gets the Gentleman, takes a turn or two in the Gallery, but can make no discovery; the Chamberlain seeing the Gentleman up, gets into his Chamber to make his Bed, wherein he finds a fine Diamond Ring, which the Lady, it seems, in her surprize, (tho' unknown to either herself, or the spark) had drop'd over Night. The Chamberlain immediately brings the Ring to the Gentleman, who for a guest, who should be the owner;

owner, and consulting the best means of discovering its right Mistress, he resolves to invite all the Wedding Folks to Dinner that Day; which, in a very obliging Complement, sent to the Bridegroom, was accepted; the Gentleman provides a very splendid Dinner, compos'd of the nicest Rarities, best Wines, and finest Musick that could be had: now he, and his friends busie themselves, in entertaining the good Company with a world of diverting, and pleasant Stories, all the while, narrowly eyeing the young Ladies, tho' fruitlessly; for he could by no means; by any look, or action, so much as guess, which should be the fair unknown: At last, on he puts the Ring, displays his hand in a thousand postures, thinking some of them would take notice of it, as he imagin'd; so it happens, one of the Ladies above the rest, blushes at the sight, and appears in great disorder, whereon, he apprehends it to be probable enough, that she might be the fair Owner; on this imagination, he taketh the first opportunity to single her from the rest of the good Company, and, modestly ask'd

ask'd her, If she did not know that Ring. This doubled the Lady's confusion, and her obstinacy too, to conceal her self, for she falsely disowns it, and will not by any means be induc'd to acknowledge that ever she saw it in her life before. He as positively, but with a great deal of respect, tells her, it was in vain to endeavour to deceive him any farther, for by the disorder she had discover'd at her first seeing it, he was thoroughly convinc'd, that she must be the true owner, and that the Ring did really belong to her; and as a means to induce her to acknowledge it, assures her, with all the protestations, and vows imaginable, upon his honour, never to disclose the least tittle of the matter; to manifest the truth of his words, begs she would accept of him for her Husband; and with the less fear, he makes the proposal, since they were absolutely strangers to each others circumstances; which was reason sufficient enough to perswade her, it was not interest that mov'd him to this Declaration of a Passion so sincere. It was nothing (he solemnly adds) but eternal Love, and

and a free Choice, which had extorted from him, this Declaration. The Lady is overcome with so gently a treatment and procedure, gives him leave (but with the most obliging, but modest air in the World) to make his address to her, which are seconded with such good success, the Marriage Rights, were in three Days space concluded, where after a short Grace, the Gentleman was left to fall to, without interruption.

3.

A young Spark, about the age of 18, that had by several extravagances enforced his Father to a strict severity over him, besides telling *Lysander* (for so I shall call him) that on the next Misdemeanour he must depart his doors: This sentence sounds very hard in his Son's ears, and duely weighing the misery of separation from his beloved Mistress, (a near Neighbour of his) he began to intercede with his father to have some patience, on a conditional Promise of his future Goodness: But mighty Love prevented his keeping the articles made with his old Dad. This Mistress of his was
Daugh-

Daughter to a Gentleman, but she was of no great fortune more than Nature and Art, in point of Education, had accomplish'd her withal: Nevertheless, there was between those two young Lovers an amorous intreague very cunningly managed; for the Lady's Father was in all particulars as austere as *Lyfander's*, therefore they had order'd their Meetings in the night; for several times they entertain each other with all the tender Caresses that Innocence cou'd allow; but *Lyfander's* Father unluckily suspects him, whose *Argus* eyes kept a continual watch over all his actions, with that strictness, that his Quarters must be remov'd to a chamber within his Fathers, that seem'd almost impossible for *Lyfander* to get out to his Mistress that night, as by solemn promise he had ingaged to do: But Love (like Necessity, the Mocher of Invention) soon furnish'd him with an Expedient, therefore with the Resolution of a Heroe up he gets, and in his bed he places a block with his cap on't, the face to the wall and closely cover'd; then taking one of the sheets he ventures thorough his Father's chamber, who

who (being more wakeful than *Lyfander* imagined) over-heard him, but let him alone, knowing all the doors were fast and the keys by his bed side: *Lyfander* takes his sheet, goes to the window, (and having drawn the barr with much art and no noise) fastens the sheet, lets himself down into the garden; from thence he repairs (with eager hast) to his Mistress, tho' in less than two hours they parted again, thro' fear of approaching day: But e'er that time, his father having heard something trip thorough his chamber, soon concluded 'twas his hopeful son; and being assured he cou'd not get out of the house, lay still expecting his return; and list'ning some time to no purpose, at last mistrusts his own sence of Hearing, and consulting his wife, she was of the same opinion with himself; nevertheless, the old Man cou'd not be satisfy'd, but rise he must; taking a candle, goes to his son's chamber, where seeing the head lie very snug, in a true sleeping posture, concluded 'twas *Lyfander*, and returns to his wife; but Jealousie and Age generally are inseparable Companions, therefore it cou'd

cou'd not out of the Oldman's pericra-
 nium but that some Ghost or Thief had
 invaded his house; therefore for his
 better satisfaction he takes the candle
 and down stairs he trots, examining all
 the doors; and finding all fast, up he
 goes again; but as he ascends, he espies
 a pittance of the sheet hanging within
 the window, and posting thither, he
 observes the manner of its contrivance,
 and concludes no less than a robbery
 in the case; whereupon he calls up all
 his servants in order to make a strict
 search throughout the house, but with
 the same fruitless success as before;
 therefore he commands his son to be
 rais'd, which one of the maids attempt-
 ed to do, by calling him several times,
 and receiving no answer, she jogs the
 block, taking it for her young Master;
 but doing it rudely and in haste the block
 turn'd, and with its grim Phiz star'd
 her up in the countenance, which so
 affrighted the poor maid, that she runs
 to her master crying out that *Lyfander*
 was murder'd, and black in the face;
 this suddain outcry amazed the old folks
 who immediately hurry to see this
 bloody Tragedy; but upon true exa-
 mination

mination discovers the plot, and leaving all things in their first order, they return to bed, and expect their son's return, who soon after made his silent entry, and rectifying the window, stole back to his chamber, little suspecting the discovery that was made; but settling himself to supply his broken rest, when his Father (who no longer able to conceal his rage) came to correct our amorous Night-walker; by the cloud on his Fathers brow, *Lysander* plainly saw the storm was coming, and pleaded hard for mercy, alledging the innocency of his years cou'd not draw him to any thing more than a Merry-making with civil Persons of the neighbourhood: This wou'd not pacifie the incensed father, who laid on very severely, till perceiving no returns of childish bawling, but rather a manly suffering, he forbore his school-boys chastisement, and upon *Lysander's* farther entreaty he came to a Capitulation, on condition of these articles of Agreement, that for the next fault he committed, banish'd he must be for ever, from his Father's Presence: Nevertheless an article made with a Father, is
not

not to ſtand in competition with a Miſtreſs, and as ill luck wou'd have it, *Lyſander* had promis'd his Miſtreſs to meet her the following night at the ſame place; *Lyſander* (after the mode of PRINCES) ſoon found a flaw in the Treaty, therefore reſolves to venture if he loſt the revenue of all his fathers Dominions; and having information, that the old Man intended to lock him into the Chamber the next Night, by the way of prevention, Love inſpired our Champion, to go in the day time, and pluck up a board under his bed, which gave him paſſage into a Cellar, where he cou'd get out of the Window with eaſe; that done, and the hopes of ſeeing his Miſtreſs, made him very pleaſant the reſt of the Day, which gave his Father ſome ſuſpition. he had a project working in his pate that made his heart ſo light, and is reſolved to watch his ſons motions: Night being come, the Family order'd to bed, & *Lyſander* lockt into his chamber, who ſeemingly prepar'd for reſt by pulling off his cloaths; but on the contrary he falls to work, and firſt removing the looſe boards, he with a line let down his

his cloaths; the passage being not wide enough otherways; then he descends himself, where he concludes he was out of all danger; but he was no sooner in the cellar, but the same moment his father was in the chamber, who seizing the line, drew back all *Lysander's* cloaths, leaving him in the cold cellar cover'd only with his shirt: This unlucky disappointment serv'd but to heighten his resolution, and had not Modesty urged against it, he had ventured naked as he was, to shew himself a punctual Lover to his Mistress, who with great impatience, attended her Spark's coming, til the bright Aurora had near guilded the tops of the Neighbouring Hills; and then alas, she retires pensive and sad, little imagining the cause of the disappointment: when on the other hand, poor *Lysander's* Father, enters the Cellar, not only to release him, but likewise do discharge him out of his house. according to condition of the treaty so lately concluded, which the moment he was dressed, his Father absolutely performed; and now, the Story of the prodigal Son, comes into *Lysander's* head, with the additi-

additional thoughts of being for ever banished from his charming Mistress, who doubtless would not regard him in exile, therefore beats his brain, to find out a means of being reconcil'd to his Father; and the best expedient he contrives, is to go to a Gentleman of his Father's particular acquaintance, and through his intercession, he might find pardon; and accordingly, *Lysander* repairs to this Gentleman; tells him his misfortune, and deep concern for his Father's displeasure: which so far prevails on the Gentleman, that he immediately sends for *Lysander's* old Dad, who, by his Friend's intreaty, and *Lysander's* humble contrition, the old Man was prevail'd upon to pardon his Son, whose future behaviour, made such ample amends for the little elopements he had made, that it wrought on the old Man so far, as to consent, *Lysander* should espouse his ador'd Mistress; who, in a little time after, were married to both their mutual satisfaction.

4.

A young Lady, who had newly buried her Husband, makes a resolution,

on, that the next she married, shou'd have an Estate equal to, if not exceeding her own, for Love she would by no means think on it, that having little ones before, to have made her miserable; but her Spouse being gone, she had buried her fond Love with him; the Man she wou'd pitch on, must be accomplish'd, and one she did not hate, but rich he must be inevitably: Being thus resolv'd, she soon dispatcht a number of Votaries; none of these suiting her Inclinations, while at last, comes a very fine Gentleman, that after two or three visits, she likes extreamly, where she sure he had money enough; and enquiring of his Friend that introduced him, is informed, he has 300 Pounds *per Annum*: nevertheless, she resolves to act with a world of caution, lest he should prove an Impostor: But the Spark desirous to end the Courtship, and take the Covenant, (as dear joy calls it) presses her to know when the happy Day should be; the Lady tells him, It would be very necessary, first to make a Settlement of his Estate, that there might be no cause of repenting afterwards; when this was done, the

the Marriage might soon be perform'd : The Gentleman gives her the choice of having 200 a Year settled on her, or leaving the matter to his own free will, as believing she deserved the Treasure of the *Indies* : To this generous offer, the Lady knew not readily how to answer, but desires a day or two consideration. In the mean time, the Gentleman (accidentally, a purpose) drops a Letter out of his Pocket, which coming to the Lady's hand, she opens, and finds to this purpose :

SIR,

AFTER due Respects to you, these are to acquaint you that the Affairs hitherto are very fortunate, and like to continue so, for of the last half year Rent due to you, I've receiv'd 200 Pounds, which is the whole within a small matter ; and and there is 300 Pounds more fall'n to you by an accident, which you may receive at your arrival ; for Mr. W — your old Tenant and his wife, in your Copy-hold, are both dead, and his Son offers me 200 Pounds for a new Lease renew'd in his and his brother's Name, besides an addition of 20 Pounds per Annum Rent more than formerly ;

merly; and a 100 Pounds is offer'd by
 goodman G — to put his Son's life also in
 the lease; if you please to perform these
 two-leases, they will pay me down the mo-
 ney, and take my promise that you at your
 return will seal to them; therefore if you
 please to accept it, I'll send you the whole
 Summ together, believing 'twill be more
 safe and profitable for you to dispose of it in
 town than here. And now Sir, I hope you
 will pardon me, if I desire to know how you
 proceed in your Love affair; for Madam
 R — whom you formerly courted, seems to
 desire you wou'd renew your suit, she having
 a fine Estate left her by her Uncle that's late-
 ly dead; but knowing you do not esteem mo-
 ney before affection, I must be silent, and
 submit to your better Judgement, with ask-
 ing pardon for my freedom. I remain

Your Worship's Servant,
 and faithful Steward,

E. H.

The Lady was extreamly pleas'd
 with the contents of this Letter, hugged
 herself for the good fortune she was
 going to possess; tho' the latter part of
 the Letter, did by no means oblige her
 understanding, his old Mistriss had met
 with the good fortune, of a large ad-
 F dition

dition to her Estate; this she fears may incline her Lover to renew his Address to her; therefore, by way of prevention, she resolves to delay the matter no longer, but upon his next treaty of Marriage, to accept of him, and that upon his own terms; which was not long before it was perfected, by the Gentleman's coming, when the time was ended, that she desired to consider of the business: The Spark prest her home to the matter, and the more earnest he was for it, through his occasions calling him into the Country: Upon this, the Lady lets him know, she so much rely'd on his Love and Honour, that when e'er he pleased, their Nuptials should be consummated, leaving things wholly to his own pleasure, not in the least disputing his Generosity, since she left her self wholly to him: To this he answer'd so very obliging, that she yielded to be married the next Day; which accordingly was performed: And to shew her good opinion, (and believing it might augment his Generosity to her) she gave him the Keys of all her Money, Writings, Plate and Jewels; he again modestly return-

returned them to her, signifying (with thanks) how much better he was pleased they shou'd continue in her possession; and striving to out-do each other in kindness, they passed away the time for some Weeks; but he taking no notice of his Journey, she let him know what diversion she shou'd take to go with him to his Country House, and see the Joynter he wou'd make her. To this he willingly complies, with an assurance that he intended to settle all he had, upon her; and being something skill'd in the Law, he would draw up a Draught of all his Affair, and give her, to advise with her Friends; this in a Day or two he performs, by delivering his Lady a Paper, telling her, he was obliged to go to the other end of the Town, and in the mean time, she might peruse the Draught, and chuse as she as pleas'd: and taking his leave, repairs to the place aforesaid. He was no sooner gone, but the Lady takes the Paper, the Draught of the supposed Joynter, and to her Relations she goes, telling them, she must ask their advice in making choice of what part of her Spouse's Estate she shou'd pitch on; and

opening the Paper, gave it her late Husband's Father to read; which he does, as follows:

*Grave plodding Sir, my Wife I've sent to you,
That you'll advise her, what she had best to do.
She is rich, so am I, beyond controule;
For I have Lordships, boundless as my Soul:
She's vast'y rich, what need she covet more?
Yet gaining me, she's richer than before.
I have no Lands, confess, but I have Wit;
Make her such Jointer as you please of it:
I have good parts too, that she knows full well,
And may confess, if not a sham'd to tell;
Both which she shall command, nor will I be
Unkind to her, that is so kind me: (pelf;
What would she have more? having enough of
She has all she cou'd have, seeing she has my self.
Dear second self, be not displeas'd that I
Did frame a Letter, that gain'd thee thereby.
Who wou'd not wrack his wits, to spring a Mine
So rich? all others poor, compar'd to thine:
And may the Powers above, henceforth decree,
That none may work within thy Mine, but me.*

At the first, the Lady seem'd strangely disorder'd, but recollecting her self, she resolv'd to make the best of what was not in her power to undo; therefore, patiently attends her Husband's return; which at night, he fail'd not

to do; and finding his Spouse in so pleasant a deboniar temper, made him suspect her Friends and she, had contriv'd some satisfactory revenge, equivalent to the trick he had imposed on our rich beautiful Widow; but discouraging her, he then found she was as well pleased with his Wit, as with the real enjoyment of his large Pretences, and hugg'd his Soul with more ardency, than her willing arms did his Body: The satisfaction was greatly pleasing on both sides, neither was the Gentleman backward in making ample acknowledgments for his Happiness in so charming a Bride.

5.

Three Ladies, one Summer Evening, walking in *St. James's Park*, was accosted by a violent fine Beau, who, by his Gesture and Mean, they judged to be some out-landish Officer of the Guards: He made his address in particular, to one of the Ladys, which happen'd to be of a pleasing brisk humour, and conceiving in her self, a great inclination to put some trick upon her new cringing Lover, she turns to her Companions, (and in as plain a manner as

she durst, without fear of the Spark's mistrust, or discovery) tells them her intention; then seeming to walk from her Companions, as to give the Beau an opportunity of Converse; he soon closes with the motion, and quickly came to the point, which was to accept of an Entertainment with him at such a place; the Lady, after some faint denial, promises to meet him in less than an hour, at the same place, but she wou'd be mask'd, and in another dress, to prevent being observed by the Ladies her Companions, who wou'd think very strange of her (shou'd they in the least mistrust 'twas she) to go with a strange Gentleman: Therefore, to prevent all matters of that nature, she wou'd go home, and disguise herself from their knowledge, and without fail, wou'd return to him within the time prefix'd. This agreement made, away goes the Lady to her Company, and fails not to tell them all particulars; and after some seeming excuse, she leaves her Companions, quits the Park, making great hast home, she unstrips, and put on her Maids Cloaths, Hood and Scarf; and thus mob'd to her mind.

mind, she sallies out to her Spark, who she finds exact in his post, as when she left him; tho' had she not discover'd her Face, her Dress was so altered, that the Spark did not believe her the same: But to his unutterable joy, she was come, and to lose no time, he immediately conducts her to a Coach, which he orders to drive to the *George Tavern* in the *Palmal*; where they are no sooner alit, and entered a Room, but our furious Lover, impatient at delays, was immediately for falling too; which the Lady wou'd not suffer by any means, while after supper, and then she was at his service: (No doubt but our eager Spark, soon commanded Supper with an expeditious hand, in which he found his inclinations move so strongly;) and for the better passing away of the time, the Lady proposes a frolick of changing Cloaths with her Spark, that she might see how well she cou'd play the B-- Courtier; the Officer willing to oblige his Mistress in all things in his power, readily condescends to the humour, and without hesitating on the matter, strips immediately, as likewise does the Lady; who,

for the modest conveniency of shifting, withdrew into a closet, (or some such place, where in Taverns, they put Faggots;) and having made an exchange, even of their very Linnen. When the Lady was equipt, she makes her entry, taking the Sword and Hat, and adjusting her self in the nicest order, makes her addressees to her Metamorphos'd Spark; who (to say the truth) made but an awkward Madam, and indeed, had as oddly habitted himself, as an upstart Servant Maid, when she pretends to personate her Mistress; therefore the Lady assists in the pinning up the Gown, dressing the Head, and placing the Patches; and after all things were in order on both sides, the Lady plaid her part with so much wit and humour, that by all means, the Frolick must be continued while after Supper; which indeed, was managed with such a nicety, that neither the Waiters, or Attendance, perceived the Metamorphosis. And now Supper drawing near a conclusion, our Lady Spark commands the Waiter to withdraw, that she might, with freedom, discourse *Monsr.* Madam, and have the diversion of laugh-

laughing at her He Monster in Petticoats, who fain wou'd have debauch'd his own Breeches upon the Lady's Back; therefore she finding her Spark so violent, and the humour now growing stale, believes it is high time to change the Scean; and accordingly she steps to the Stairs-head, with a pretence to call up the Waiter; (or rather, as the Officer supposes, to make use of a convenient Utensil, that commonly furnishes ever Tavern's Stair-case) but indeed, it proved otherwise; for near half an hour passes, and no Spark appears: at which, Madam rings, demanding of the Waiter, where the Gentleman was gone: The Waiter replies, Over to the Chocolate-house, leaving word at the Bar. He would be back immediately: This the Officer believes is done, the better to carry on the Frolick; but waiting an hour longer, he grew out of patience, sending to the Chocolate-house, to enquire for a Gentleman in such Cloaths: Word was brought, he had been gone in a Coach from thence, near an hour. This was like Thunder, in our disguised Officer's Ear, who,

who, now but two plainly perceives the Cheat; at which, he fell to tarring off his Headcloaths, then cursing and swearing like a Furie, but all in vain, for the Bird was flown away with her prey: And to compleat his misfortune, up the Bill is brought, which he going to discharge, finds not so much as one penny in his Pocket, to keep the Devil out; this makes him stark mad-indeed; and his raving and noise was over-heard by some Company in the next room, that was certain, they knew the Voice; which led one of the Gentlemen, curiously to inquire the cause of such an angry Dispute; and being inform'd the whole matter, makes no excuse, but in he goes; but when he beheld the poor Officer, with his Headcloaths off, the Gown dangling on one Arm, and his own disorder and confusion at being discovered by one of his intimate acquaintance, set the Gentleman a laughing at such a violent manner, that any body might reasonably have thought him as mad as the other: This drew the rest of the Company to examine into the cause, (which was compos'd of several Gentlemen

lemen and Ladies) that all knew the Officer, and resolved to share in the mirth of so odd an adventure. When every one had tired themselves with laughing, and ridicul'd the Spark while the jest began to paul on their hands, They perswaded the Officer to accept of their assistance, in paying the Reckoning, and see him safe home: Where I leave him, and return to our young herowick Lady; who no sooner came near her House, but she discharges her Coach, to prevent discovery of being betray'd, went through a by-way home; and being curious to see how her Pockets were lin'd, put her hand in, and draws forth, a nest of near 30 pieces of Gold, besides Silver; then examining farther, meets with a Gold-watch, whose string was well furnish'd with Seals, Rings, and Lockets, which she lays by, as Trophies of her Victory: The Coat was fine Scarlet richly laced; the Waistcoat and Breeches, of green and gold Silk; a fair long Periwig; a fine Beaver Hat; in all, to the value of 100 Pound. And notwithstanding, the Officer made it his business, by all ways imaginable, to find out

out his deceiving Mistress, yet with his utmost diligence, he never could see eyes on her more.

6.

— Two Sea-men belonging to the *Britania*, when my Lord *Torrington* was Admiral; having received their Years pay, and were coming for *London*; but put a shore at *Ratclif*, to see one of their old Landladies, were met by a She-Privateer, of *Blew Apron Bay*, which pretending to a familiar acquaintance with them, must needs have them to a Friend's House of hers, to drink their welcome home: One of the Seamen would by no means accept of her kindness; but the other finding his inclinations stirring, whips her under the Arm, and fearless of all danger, trots on; whilst the other makes the best of his way to his Landlady: It was not above four in the Afternoon, when Brother *Tarrs* parted, and e'er the close of Day, poor pilgarlick's Mistress, had lighten'd his Pocktes of 15 Pounds, for while he was playing at High Gammar Cooks, our She-Pirat had dived, and made a clear conveyance of all his Money; which our Merchant adven-

adventurer, soon missing, began to make a plaguy noise; but the Hostess soon let him know that 'twas to no purpose, neither would she suffer him to scandalize her House without good satisfaction, and offering to call her Bravado's and Creatures about her, poor Tarr concludes it the safer way to depart in peace: But being Pennyless, is compell'd to foot it to his Quarters; and going through the Fields, he meets a Baker with a bag of Money under his Arm, that he had just received for Corn and Bread. The Seaman sees this, and calling to mind his own loss, makes up to the Baker, and tells him, he had a great occasion for that Money, and must have it; which without any great resistance, he takes from him, and posing the Bag in his hand, tells the Baker, He believes there was more than he wanted, for his due was but 15 Pounds, and he would not have a farthing more; and telling out just that Sum, gives the residue to the Baker, marches his way: The Baker, nevertheless, turns back, and at a distance follows the Seaman, who was no sooner within *Algate*, but a Constable seizes him,

him, and commands him before the next Justice of Peace, where the Baker taxes him with the Robbery, and he confesses it; for which his *Mittimus* is made, and to *Newgate* they send him. From whence he writes a Letter to his Mesmate before mention'd, desiring he wou'd come immediately to him in such a place. The poor fellow not a little frighted at the word *Newgate*, scowrs to him, and indeed, finds his Brother Sailer very sad, with the dismal Apprehensions of being hanged; and after the first greeting, is made acquainted with the matter, who (like one of *Job's* comforters) tells him, robbing on the Highway, wou'd certainly hang him, nevertheless, he would do any thing in the World for him, that was in his power. All that I desire of you (answers the Prisoner) is to deliver a Letter for me;: Ay, that the other would do with all his heart: But (says the other) 'tis to a huge great Man. Well, answers he, let him be as big as he will, I'll carry it him. Upon which, poor Tarr writes a Letter, (and to no less Person than the King) and delivering it to his Friend, he goes immediately to
White.

Whitehal, asking of the Centry, Whither King *Charles* did not live there, and if he was within, for he had earnest business with him. The Centry smiling at the Fellow's ignorance, told him, Yes, the King did live there, but at that time, was walking in the Park: The Park (cries the Fellow) where's that? Cross the way where you see those Men on Horseback, says the Centry. What, I warrant you take me for a great fool indeed, answers the Fellow, to believe a Park can be in a Street of Houses. However, he tacks about, and inquiring for the King as before, was bid to go on to the Company he saw before him, and in that croud, he wou'd see him. Away scoures the Seaman, and bustling through the Guard, shoving one, and elbowing another, still inquiring for King *Charles*. The Guards seeing such a boisterous Fellow, would have kept him back; but the King (who was always pleas'd with a jest) seeing the Fellow's eagerness, gave orders they should let him alone; which they doing, up he comes to the King, and without Ceremony, asked him, If his Name was K. *Charles*,
for

for if it was, he had earnest business with him, and had got a Letter in his pocket for him. Yes, the King told him, his Name was so: Then he taking the Letter out of his Pocket, gave it the King, who opened it, and read as follows.

King CHARLES,

A Subject of thine took from me fifteen Pounds, upon which I took from another Subject of yours fifteen pounds more, for which they have put me into a certain place call'd Newgate, telling me I must be hang'd; therefore if you don't look out sharp, e G-d you'll lose as able a Seaman as any you have. in 3 days time Enquire of Admiral Herbert, and you'll know farther.

Richard Jones.

The King smiling at the humor, turns himself to the Admiral (who was by) and ask'd him if he knew that man, giving him the Letter, which he immediately read, and assur'd his Majesty they were two as good seamen as any in the fleet, however one of them came to be guilty of so great a misdemeanour: Upon the commendation the Admiral gave him.

him, and for the Jest's sake, the King bids the fellow follow him, and going into the Cockpit calls for pen, ink, and paper, and answers the Letter thus:

Well Dick,

FOR this once I'll pardon you, but if ever you commit the like again, if you don't look out sharp, e G-d you shall be hang'd in three daies time.

King CHARLES.

The King deliver'd this to the Seaman, who with many thanks and great joy hurries with the good news to Dick, where producing the King's Letter, soon set his friend at liberty; who having so nearly escaped such great danger, needed not many arguments to follow the King's caution for the future.

7.

A young Lady exquisitely beautiful, was courted by an innumerable many Sparks, as caus'd dispair in most of her admiring Visitants: Nevertheless, her heart proved not so impregnable to the assaults of a young neighbouring Gentleman, but that she cou'd hear his addresses, and at last submit to become a
Victim

Victim to All-powerful LOVE, which reign'd in both their breasts with a reciprocal Flame, and nothing but a disparity in the Spark's fortune cou'd have prevented his immediate asking his lovely Mistress of her father; that and some other animosities between their relations, made them resolve on secret and private Conference, which prov'd but very short liv'd; for some curious impertinants or other, made it their business to discover the Ladies Amours to her Father, whose rage carried him so far, as to have his Daughter immediately convey'd to a remote place, unknown to any but themselves; and for a more absolute prevention of their growing passion, her Father caus'd it to be given out, that the young Gentleman was suddenly dead; and for greater belief of the matter, contrives to send a Person to her, with the news, that she knew to be intimately acquainted with her Lover. How deplorable and dismal this unexpected news was to the Lady, I can't propose to tell; (therefore must refer that task to some sincere and experienc'd Lover) but so it was, and like to prove of such fatal consequence,

sequence, that our young Ladies Life was in danger, insomuch, that all hopes of her recovery was lost: in the mean time, that matters shou'd be effectual, a Letter was feigned, in imitation of the Lady's Hand, full of Excuses for absence, which she found to be absolutely necessary, not only to shew her Duty to her Father (who she wou'd not by any means disoblidge) but for her better avoiding his Company, which she now must shun, since she cou'd not have it with freedom, and therefore bids him adieu for ever. This Letter was delivered to the Lover, who in the heighth of resentment, resolved never to endeavour seeing her again; and for the certainty of keeping his word, he immediately furnishes himself with all things for Travel, with a resolution never to return. 'Tis not to be imagined, but on both sides, this misfortune was very intolerable, but absence and time (the best remedy for Lovers) dissipated and scattered part of their Grief; and the Lady's Father understanding he was gone on the parole, recalls his Daughter from Banishment, so soon as she could, with safety, come abroad,

abroad, after her dangerous illness: she was no sooner returned home, but (her Father imagining, one Love wou'd drive out another) was oblig'd to permit the visits (tho' contrary to her inclinations) of several troublesome love-making fops; and amongst the number, there was a particular favorite of her Fathers, who would take no denial, but daily soliciting her a one side, and her Father on the other, she was at last (for her own quiet) forced to marry him. 'Tis true, for three or four years they liv'd very happily, with the Gentleman, who doubtless lov'd her tenderly; but as there's no solid Joy, without intervals of Disquietude, so it proved here; for the Ladies supposed dead Lover, in this time returns, not being able any longer to keep his word; for 'tis our first Love, that ever makes the truest impression on an amorous Heart) and understanding how far his Mistress was from sending him such a Letter; but on the contrary, had near lost her life at the news of his supposed death: Then it was he behaved himself like a Man distracted, especially (at the visiting her) when he heard from her

her own mouth, had she known he had been alive, no Man on Earth, but himself, should have been her Husband: this endearing Confession, and his own imaginary Thoughts, of what an inestimable Treasure he had lost, by not staying at home with patience, plunged him into perfect Madness, and the next Day brought him to his Sick-bed, where he lay raving for some time, still calling on the Lady, and exclaiming against his own hard fate; at length, his Friends so far prevail'd on the Lady, as to visit him; which out of pitty and generosity, she does, tho' not without censure from the unthinking World; who inquiring into the cause of his Distemper, and calling to remembrance their former passion, made no scruple of making very scandalous reflections, which unhappily reach'd the Husband's Ear, who naturally was very credulous, therefore the sooner listned to busie tongues, since it concern'd his second self; and by the odd chimera's of his own brain, he multiplies to himself, a world of uneasiness; insomuch as to question his Wife's fidelity; which for his better information, he parts beds, with-

without letting her know his resentment, before he saw what event there would be of the business. The Lady is strangely surpris'd at her Husband's behaviour, but not in the least suspecting the cause, continues her visits to the sick Gentleman, endeavouring all she could to add to his recovery; made no scruple to assure him, he had still a share in her heart, which once was all his own: this tender acknowledgment wrought in the Gentleman so a great a change, that in less than three hours, it was apparent to all his Friends and Visitors, who soon concluded, the alteration proved from his Doctress; for afterwards, there was not a visit she made him, but sensibly amended him.

No sooner was he restor'd to perfect Health, but the Ladies Husband fell down right sick with Jealousie, the certain Curser of Wedlock, making no manner of scruple to call his Wife a thousand whores, and was so strongly possess'd with the thoughts of her dishonesty, that by no means, or intreaties, could prevail upon him to hear the least plea in her behalf, but revenged he
swore

swore he wou'd be on his Wife and the Gentleman ; & accordingly made several attempts to do it ; so that her Relations thought it high time to advise her to take care of her self, by not coming near him, while they had used their endeavours to convince him of his misgrounded opinion. The Lady follows her Friends counsel, in hopes her absence would appease his rage ; but when he saw he was deceived, without acting his revenge, he ran up and down like a fury, 'till wearied with his own passion, he suffers himself to be laid in bed ; where meditating on the matter, he conceives the only way to act his hellish purpose, must be by seeming to own his folly, and believe those who pleaded in his Wife's behalf ; this he does by inclining to listen, with attention, to the intreaties of his Friends, who urged demonstrable assurances of his Wife's Virtue, with many other perswasions, that so far prevail'd, as to acknowledge his error, and if they would interceed with his Wife to come to him again, he would, on his knees, beg hers, and the Gentleman's pardon, for the wrong he had committed ; and bind.

binding his Promises with Vows and Oaths, his Friends really believe him, and immediately goes to fetch the Lady; and at her coming home, our Saint-seeming Devil, prepares a very fine Dinner, inviting his supposed Rival, and all his Friends, to rejoyce with him at his happy reconciliation between his wife and himself; tho' in the mean time, he had apply'd himself to an Apothecary, one of his intimate acquaintance, that he thought he might safely trust, telling him the whole circumstance, and unless he had revenge, he was a dead Man; and therefore he must prepare a strong dose of Poison that would dispatch them instantly. The Apothecary, after a little pausing, consented to let him have it, on condition it shou'd never be discovered; which, with strong perswasions, and imprecations, he assures him, never shall; and immediately returns home, where after dinner, he declares to the whole Company, the wrong he had done his Wife, and the present Gentleman, heartily asking forgiveness of them both, promising to make ample amends by his future behaviour; and

now,

now nothing but a general Joy was seen all round the Table, which made him conclude this a fit time to act his Villany; therefore calling for such a bottle of Wine, he fills out a brimmer and drinks to his Wife, wishing from that moment he may never more offend; the Lady gladly accepts it, and drank to her former Lover; he oblidgingly pledges her, drinking to the person that sat next him; who offering to drink, the Husband snatches the glass, saying it shou'd go no farther: Every one admir'd at the humor, which he soon explain'd, by telling his Friends, his Wife and her Friend deserv'd something better than ordinary to end all Differences on Earth, and send 'em safe to Heaven; neither did he love them so little, as not to bare them company; he therefore immediately order'd them to go to prayers for a safe journey, since their time wou'd be but short here: The confusion all the company was in at what he said, is unutterable, plainly understanding he had poison'd them: All Expedition was immediately made for Remedies to expel this deadly Draught, whilst the poor Lady and

G

Gentleman

Gentleman were on their knees offering up their last Petition, which was to clear their Innocence; then turning to her Husband, she sincerely declar'd how wrongfully she suffer'd, not but with her last words she wou'd forgive him; and I (says the Gentleman, on the words of a sinful man) protest I never defil'd your bed, and do believe her as chaste as vestal Virgins: Whilst they were thus protesting their Innocence, and bringing the Husband on his knees to ask pardon for a tripple Murder, in came the Apothecary, and seeing them all in such a Posture cou'd not refrain laughing; at which the Husband turning his head sees the Apothecary, and cries out to have him seized, for he was the Villain that hope him to do that dam'd Act, by furnishing him with that hellish potion to murder the innocent: Conceit had by this time so wrought on the Lady and Gentleman, and was so apparent in their faces, that the Apothecary concluded it time to discover the whole matter; and desiring them to rise, declar'd the manner of her Husbands coming to him for Poyson, which if he had deny'd him
wou'd

wou'd doubtless have gon to some other place that might have embraced his wicked Purpose; but to prevent all farther attempts, I gave him a dose of no other than harmless simpels that cannot hurt them: This Discourse was strangely grateful to the Company, who asking the Lady how she did, acknowledged she felt no manner of alteration in her self, neither did the Gentleman; but the Husband confounded at the discovery of his wicked plot, and ashamed to breath after such pernicious Guilt, drew his sword, and had fell upon it but one of his friends perceiving his aim, by luck, closing with him, took it quite away; faild not of using all their Rhetorick, which prov'd so successful as to appease his dispair, and once more reconcile him to his Wife; and soon after retiring, sequestred himself two years from the enjoyments of the World, exercised himself in all things that plainly exprest his penitence, and receiv'd a weekly pennance during his Life; and was by his humble contrition made happy to the end of his dayes.

8.

An old superannuated Collonel of the

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Malitia

Malitia in *Kent*, that was, for his great riches, married to a very pritty young innocent Lady of the same County, which he highly tendered, and by the liberty and diversions he allow'd her, it might very well be supposed, he intended to make up the want of his own insufficiency: Nevertheless, thro' her often being sent for by her Neighbours, to Groanings and Christnings, where she saw such fine things, and participated of such good Chear, that made her have a mighty inclination to Ly-in also, that she might make her Friends welcome to her own House, in the like nature; whereupon, she lets her Husband know how uneasie she should be, without she had a Child, like the rest of her acquaintance; which he, poor old good natur'd Gentleman, tells her she should have, and for that time, put her off, with assuring her it was only in pitty to her youth, that she had not had a Child all this time. The Lady's innocency (which indeed was great) prevented her knowledge to the contrary, but imagining, that for certain, it must needs be some very hard thing she was to undergo, to be got with child,

child, concludes it was absolutely out of love to her. The Collonel did not desire, or go about to get any. These thoughts pacified the Lady, and she soon assumes her pleasant humour, which continued for some time; but going to make a visit to a Person of Quality, that chan't to fall to pieces whilst she was there; (was, through the Childs illness, oblidg'd to Christen immediately) and intercedes with this young Lady to be one of the Gossips. The Ceremony being over, and the Company seated at supper; after the first Course was served up, and their Mouths a little at liberty, they fell to examining the young Lady, how it came about, that such a likely Lady as she, had ne'er a Child? telling her, for certain, the fault was none of hers, and therefore must proceed from some impediment of her Husband's age; the Lady modestly excus'd the Collonel and herself, by such pretty harmless evasions, that caus'd the Company in general to smile at her innocence, as well as pity her imbecility; nevertheless the Lady could not help reflecting on what had been said to her, and at her com-

ing home, and in bed, she soon made the Collonel to understand, there would be no peace in *Israel*, unless he got a Child: The Collonel us'd a world of arguments to dissuade her from so dangerous an attempt, (as he called it) for sure he was, it would certainly kill her; this no way discouraged the Lady, but try she was resolv'd, and a Child she wou'd have. Well then, says the Collonel, since you are so obstinate, come get up, and go down with me into the Hall; which accordingly she does; then down he takes a sute of old rusty Armour, and upon his Wife he puts it, with the Head-piece, and the other appurtenances; and armed *Cap-a-pee* as she was, he commands her to mount up upon a joyntstool, that he set for the same use, and taking a hunting pole, he tells her, that he must knock her down, off from that stool three times, and then she would be with child, tho' indeed, he should do it with great reluctancy, being sure 'twas impossible she could ever go thro' it; however, since 'twas her desire, he should try; and with a good lusty blow, down he knock'd her, and there she lay almost

almost stunded with the bang, and the closeness of the Armour, while he unlock'd the Head-piece, and gave her ease: This was indeed, somewhat troublesome, yet venter she would the other bout, and raising her self, as before, the Collonel assuming all his strength, laid it home to some purpose; down she came tumbling, stool and all, and continued for some time without sence or motion; but recovering so much breath, as to beg the Collonel to uncase her, and help her to bed, was all she could say at that time; the next day, she could not help expressing her thanks to the Collonel, for the mighty care and love he had shewn her, in taking pitty on her youth, in not attempting to get her with Child, for now she plainly knew she could never bear it, therefore assured him, from this time forward, ne'er to desire a Child more; and accordingly kept her word, without the least concern, or shew of inclination to the contrary. Not long after, the Collonel fell ill, and died, leaving his Lady posselt of his Estate, which soon proved a bait, that several young Sparks would fain

have nibbled at, and gladly have been caught in the marriage Noose ; but the Lady deaf to all their prayers, soon silenced all their pretentions, by letting them know, she intended not to change her life ; nevertheless, one particular Gentleman would take no denial, but each Day pursued her with his Love, which at last proved so fortunate, as to gain her heart, with an assurance of marriage, if he would faithfully promise her one thing, and that, was, Never to attempt to get her with Child ; this the Gentleman thought a very odd fancy, nevertheless, to oblige the Lady, (as believing in time, he should divert her from that humour) did promise to make no attempt in that nature ; whereupon they were espous'd, and the Gentleman, for some time, kept his promise, but 'twas not for flesh and blood to forbear any longer, therefore, taking her in his arms, and tenderly carasing her, he began to inquire the cause of her being so inveterate against having Children, and us'd arguments to dissuade her from it : She told him 'twas in vain, for none she would have, being sure it would be the death of her

if

if ever she shou'd try again. The Gentleman (as a stranger to her meaning) urges her making trial once more, and then, if she cou'd not bear it, he wou'd never desire it of her again: Well then, says the Lady, since you will take no denial, come get up then, tho' I am sure 'twill kill me; Get up, says the Gentleman (wondring what she meant;) Yes, get up, says she, and go down into the Hall: Which he does, being desirous of finding out her meaning; and coming to the Armour, she takes it down, saying to him, Help me on with this: At which the Gentleman stares, believing her mad. Indeed, says the Lady to him, you need have made such a deal a do about a Child, & don't know how to go about getting one; however, for once I'll shew you; and so fetching the stool, and the hunting pole, she bids him help her up, And now, says she, (if I am able to bear it) you must knock me down three times, and then I shall be with child. Pray my dear, says the Gentleman, who taught you this new fashion way of getting Children. Why, my Husband, says she, who else do you think shou'd?

and do you know of no other way to do it, says he? No indeed, replies the Lady, neither do I believe there's any other way; for if there had, I am sure the Collonel lov'd me so dearly, he wou'd have shewn me. Come, come, cries the Gentleman, (who plainly quest for what reason the Collonel had so imposed on her) pray come down, and pull off your Armour, and I'll soon instruct you in a much easier method of getting Children; and straight carrying her to bed, gave her to understand, 'twas possible for her to bear being knocked down three times, without the hazard of her Life.

9

A wild young Spark was link'd to an Old-woman, whom he had marry'd purely for her money, and therefore made bold (as Opportunity presented) to divert himself abroad; where notwithstanding he had choice enough, yet (being of a jovial temper) he desired to have something that he cou'd fancy at home; several maids they had, of which he liked none, being pretty difficult; but at last his wife and he happen'd upon one that pleas'd both:

The

The Maid had no fault, only she lov'd good things; for her Mistress cou'd never lay any thing out of her hands (that was better than ord'nary) but the maid wou'd be sure to taste, which always made the old Mistress very angry, and the Master laugh and excuse the wench; for he (you must know) intended to have a lick at her Honey Pot, for when he attempted to kiss her, she wou'd flounce and go from him: The Spark finding her so very shie, doubted of success, and the more reason he thought he had to fear prevailing, because the maid oftentimes threatned to tell her Mistress, and that so seriously, that he verily believ'd she did not speak in jest: However, he persists in his Resolution, spares no pains to gain her, and for that end wou'd frequently lay Sweet-meats in her way, which she never fail'd to be nibbling at: There was likewise in the house a Cask of Canary, which the maid had heard very much commended, she cou'd not have patience to stay till 'twas broach'd, but had a hankering mind to tast, which she delays not to gratifie; and finding it pleas'd her palate, and how comforta-

ble it was, she made bold so often to visit it till 'twas near exhausted, which the Master at peircing discovers, and wondering what shou'd be the meaning of this low ebb, asks his Wife if she had ever drawn any; but she being as perfectly ignorant as the Master was himself, they fell to examining the maid; who poor creature is infinitely surpriz'd and concern'd that they shou'd think so ill a thing of her, vowing she knew no more of the matter than the babe that's unborn; the maid looks so demure and innocent amidst these protestations as gains belief it cou'd not be she, and therefore conclude unanimously all three of them, that the Vessel was in fault, and that there was a leak in the Cask: The Master had it fill'd up again, and in a little time 'twas broach'd, which the maid likes very well, for as often as she went down to draw for her Master and Mistress she'd be sure not only to take a large draught, but likewise fill a bottle for reserve: The Wine again decreases apace, which the Master and Mistress a second time charges the maid with, and told her
they

they verily believ'd she must be tardy, and that if ever they did find her at it (since she was so impudent to deny it) she shou'd before a Justice for her pains, where, they'd have no mercy of her: Notwithstanding all this, the maid persists, and out-faces the matter; still the Master watches all opportunities to accomplish his ends, and accordingly one day sends her into the cellar for some Wine, (his Wife being engaged in some Affairs in the kitchen) where he follows her, and placing himself close up in a corner, observes the maids actions, who being loath to brake off a good old custom, when the pot was full, drank heartily, fills the pot again, and then her bottle; which as she was hiding, her Master makes his appearance; at which the maid is so terrify'd, that she began to cry out, but he let her know that that was the immediate way to be undone; nothing could save her but silence, for most certainly her Mistress would have her severely whip'd if she should know it; not but that he was resolved

ved to tell his wife all he had seen. Ah! saith the poor maid, falling on her knees, and believing he intended to do as he said, Pray Sir forgive me, and—— And what, saith the fly Master? No, no, I'll be as hard hearted to you as you have been to me, unless you will—— The poor maid was in more than a peck of troubles, which he perceiving, took hold of the Opportunity, and gain'd his desire: In the mean time the Mistres comes to the Cellar Door, which he had taken care to fasten, and calling to her Husband had like to have spoil'd his diversion; but he resolves not to be bob'd in that manner, and keeps close to the work in hand, only answers in some sort of surprize, What is't you want? Why don't you come up, replies the wife, do you design to dwell in the cellar? I'm busie, I'm busie, answers he, for I've found the Leak where our wine went out. Oh I'm glad of that with all my heart, be sure you stop it tightly, says his Wife. 'Tis that I am doing of, answers he again. Wher's the
the

the Maid, is she with you? Yes, quoth the Master, she's helping me. That is well, replies the good wife, pray make hast, but be sure that you stop it well; and away goes Spouse very contentedly, leaving them to finish their Work.

A S O N G.

A Pox of this fooling and plotting of late,
What a pother and stir has it kept in
(the State!
Let the Rabble run mad with suspicion and
(fears,
Let them scuffle, and jarr, till they go by
(the ears;
There Grievance never shall trouble my pate,
So I can enjoy my dear bottle at quiet.

II.

What Coxcombs are these who wou'd
(venture their ease
And their necks for a toy, a thin wafer, and
(Mafs :
At old Tiburn they never had needed to
(fwing,
Had

Had they been but true Subjects to Drink
 (and their King;
 A Friend and a Bottle is all my Design;
 He has no room for Treason, that's top full
 (of Wine.

III.

I mind not the Members and Makers of
 (Laws,
 Let them sit, or prorogue, as her Majesty
 (please;
 Let them damn us to Woollen, I'll never
 (repine
 At my Lodging when dead, so alive I have
 (Wine;
 Yet oft in my Drink I can hardly forbear
 To curse them, for making my Claret so dear.

IV.

I mind not grave Asses who idely debate
 About Right and Succession, the trifles of
 (State;
 We have a good Queen, and he deserves
 laughter,
 That troubles his head with who shall come
 (after;
 Come, here's to her health, and I wish she
 (may be
 As free from all care and all trouble as we.

V.

The Bully of *France* that aspires to Re-
 (nown,
 By cutting of throats, and venturing his own,
 Let

Let him fight and be damn'd, and make
 (matches and twar,
 To afford the Newf-mongers and Coffee-
 (house chat ;
 He's but a brave wretch, while I am more
 (free,
 More safe, and a thousand times happier
 (than he.

VI.

Come He, or the Pope, or the Devil to
(boot,
Or come Faggot and Stake, I care not-a
(groat,
Never think that in Smithfield I Porters
(will heat,
No, I swear, Mr. Fox, pray excuse me for
(that;
I'll drink in defiance of Gibbet and Halter,
This is the Profession I never will alter.

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